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The Osaka policeman who objected to a little European girl wearing a short sleeved frock, on the ground that it was contrary to the clothing regulations, has been dismissed the force.

The *Singapore Free Press* understands that it is almost certain that the *Barfleur* and *Centurion* will be relieved on this station by the *Canopus* and the *Glory*, the former pair being of 10,500 tons and the latter of 12,950 tons, with a heavier armament, though a fractionally smaller speed.

We learn from reliable quarters that Chang Yen-mao, assistant Director-General of the Imperial Northern Railways, some two months ago appointed Sir John Wolfe Barry, K.C.B., as consulting engineer, and that a civil engineer, the latter's representative, is now on his way out.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The gold mines in the neighbourhood of Ke-lung are, we are told, yielding splendid returns, and the proprietors, Japanese, are contemplating putting in additional stamps. But they are anxious to do the thing as secretly as possible so as not to invite too much attention to their enterprise.—*The Formosan*.

The *Kobe Chronicle* says:—According to our vernacular contemporaries, the Board of Directors of the Yokohama Specie Bank has decided to increase the capital of the Bank from 12 to 24 million yen. The proposal will be submitted at a general meeting of the shareholders to be held in September next.

The first-class British cruiser *Endymion*, the *Grafton's* relief on the China station, arrived at Singapore on the 28th July. She is a sister-ship of the *Grafton* and is under the command of Captain R. S. D. Cumming. She has a displacement of 7,350 tons, 10,000 h.p., a crew of 544 men, and an armament of 12 guns,

Definite intimation has been received in Singapore, the *Straits Times* understands, that the proposed Admiralty Dock at Tanjong Pagar has been shelved, at any rate for the present. When it is constructed, as it must ultimately be constructed, it is to be not less than six hundred feet in length, one hundred and twenty feet in width at the top, and seventy-five feet at the bottom.

Extraordinary vibrations and rumblings on Rokkosan and at Arima have of late caused much concern to the inhabitants in the neighbourhood. They are attributed to the falling in of a subterranean cavity and some fear is entertained of a subsidence of the earth. There are mineral springs in the neighbourhood, and it is supposed that a large cavity has been formed by the extraction of rock salt by the solvent agency of the springs operating throughout a period of some thousands of years.

The Spanish Consul at Manila has received from Madrid three diplomas of the first class of the order of Military Merit, with the ribbon of the same. These diplomas are to be conferred upon Mr. John Alexander Pattie, the former chief of the Cable station at Bolinao, upon Mr. Theophilus Toledano, second chief of the same station, and Mr. Robert Grant, operator. The diplomas are conferred in recognition of their defence of the Cable station during the month of March, 1898, against a party of insurgents. Our congratulations to the recipients!—*Manila Times*.

The smuggling of unstamped letters from China proceeds gaily, says the *Bangkok Times*, and with satisfactory results, to judge by the persistency with which it is carried on. Two arrests were made during last month and yesterday (25th July) again 163 letters which had not been stamped were seized on board the *Loosok*.

The China Navigation Company's steamer *Shantung*, while on a voyage from Java to Hongkong went on the rocks, as already reported, off the coast of Sciria, about 300 miles from Singapore, on the 9th ultimo. The following day she was sighted by her sister ship the *Huapeh*, bound from Hongkong to Samarang, which changed her course for Singapore to obtain assistance and returned with a tow boat and four lighters. The bulk of the cargo was transferred to the *Huapeh*, after which the *Shantung* was successfully floated and taken to Singapore. The damage sustained is considerable. The *Huapeh* brought on the cargo to Hongkong.

The following appears in the *N. C. Daily News* in reference to a paragraph which had previously appeared in our contemporary and which was reproduced in the *Daily Press*:—We are very glad to learn on the best possible authority that we were entirely misinformed as to the attitude of the Officiating British Consul at Hankow in reference to the visit of H.M.S. *Woodlark* to Hunan waters, which that gentleman did everything in his power to facilitate, even to the extent of detaching Mr. Giles of the Hankow Consulate to act as interpreter for Commander Barton; and we regret very much the annoyance which our erroneous information has caused the Officiating British Consul.

The *American* says:—Further advices concerning the establishment of an American bank in Manila were received in the mail that came on the transport *Pennsylvania*. While for business reasons the names of the parties connected with the enterprise are not given out it is known that the subject is being hatched in New York by a powerful combination. It is said that reports of the financial situation in Manila have been sent to the Secretary of the Treasury, and it is related that when approached on the subject Mr. Gage agreed that a national bank, one that could be used as a United States depository, was eminently necessary in Manila. So it is thought that a bill incorporating a national bank to be located in the Philippine Islands, can be easily passed through congress at the next session.

The *Courrier d'Haiphong* in a note on the German acquisition of the Carolines rebuts the idea that France should have endeavoured to obtain the islands, and concludes as follows:—In our opinion it is not in this direction that the efforts of France should be exerted. Siam on the one side, on the other Hainan, southern China, and Yunnan demand and ought to receive the full attention of French statesmen. It is a task more than sufficient. Let us leave Germany to expand and develop in the part she has selected. She will soon become a redoubtable competitor with England and if we direct our foreign and colonial policy wisely we shall find in her—the circumstances and the Emperor William's ideas aiding—a ready made auxiliary. The near future we believe, has curious surprises in store in this respect.

BIRTH.

At Manila, on the 2nd August, the wife of H. H. Todd, of a son.

DEATH.

On the 1st July, in London, HARRY IZZARD PRICE, late of Shanghai and Singapore, second son of the late WILLIAM LILLWELL PRICE, of Warley, Brentwood, Essex, aged 41 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAIIS.

The American mail of the 6th July arrived per P. M. steamer *City of Rio de Janeiro*, on the 8th August (33 days); and the American mails of the 14th July arrived per O. & O. steamer *Coptic*, on the 10th August (27 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

A Society for the Protection of Game and other Wild Birds in China is being formed at Shanghai.

The cotton industry in Japan is still in an unsatisfactory position. We note that at the half-yearly meeting of the Fuji Cotton Spinning Company it was announced that the Company had lost some 21,000 yen on the half-year's working.

The Norwegian steamer *Ragnar*, Captain Liideman, which arrived at Shanghai on the 30th July from Japan, reports finding the missing life-boat, No. 1, belonging to the foundered steamer *Nunobiki Maru* of Kobe. The boat was bottom up in N. Lat. 31°20', E. Long. 129°50'.

A CHINO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE.

(Daily Press, 8th August.)

Curious reports are in circulation in the North respecting the secret treaty said to have been concluded between China and Japan. The *N. C. Daily News* believes that the alleged treaty is or will be a fact, but our contemporary does not imagine that it will have any practical effect on the situation, except to make the Chinese rather more pigheaded and suicidal than they are now. The *Peking and Tientsin Times*, on the other hand, anticipates momentous results from the alliance. If Japan is to avoid selling herself to Russia, says our contemporary, "she must strike a blow for liberty while Russia is at a discount. Russia is distinctly at a discount now, though she is leaving no stone unturned to strengthen her position and get on an offensive footing in East Asia. Once that is accomplished, farewell to Japan's freedom and expansion. It will be too late then for her to struggle against the inevitable, and it therefore behoves her to strike now. As to whether she stands a good chance against her northern neighbour we have not the slightest doubt. When Russians have frankly admitted in unguarded moments that they are not equal to a tussle with Japan, it is unnecessary for outsiders to be at pains to contradict them. We rather fancy, if Japan acts promptly, she stands a very good chance of pricking Bubble No. 2." A contributor sends to the *Shanghai Mercury* what he believes to be the substance of the letter sent by the Empress Dowager to the Mikado. This may be genuine or apocryphal; it is certainly interesting and amusing. According to this remarkable document, the Empress Dowager has solicited Japan's assistance chiefly with the view of curbing England's ambition and aggression. England, France, Germany, and last of all Italy have presented demands, says the letter, and the Empress does not know what to do to satisfy these greedy dogs. England is represented as the worst of all, and one of the offences laid to her charge is that she has attempted to frustrate the Empress's relations with Russia! From this it would appear that the Empress has thrown herself into the arms of Russia; in no part of the alleged letter is any request made for assistance against that Power, although it is from Russia that China has the most to fear in the way of aggression.

If a treaty has not yet been signed it is certain that negotiations are or have been in progress, and there can be little doubt we think, that an alliance will ultimately be concluded. What would be the effect of such an alliance? Japan might fail in her attempts to reorganise China's army and navy, in which case her own position would be seriously compromised, for the alliance would then prove a source of weakness instead of strength and Russia would laugh at Japan's discomfiture and, if it suited her designs, take advantage of it to carry those designs into effect. But suppose the experiment succeeded? According to the *N. C. Daily News*, "the prospect of enormous and efficient armies of yellow men, unhampered by traditions of international morality, Geneva conventions, Hague conferences, and so forth, with a mission to conquer and plunder the whole of Asia and drive away the Western barbarians, is not comfortable. Successful opposition to aggression would rapidly develop ambition for conquest and the Japanese would be irresistibly tempted along the easier path of persuading their ignorant ally to use the new weapon."

"to expel the foreigner and hamper trade rather than to police the country and assist advance in the gentle arts of peace." We cannot endorse our contemporary's sensational predictions. Japan's aim is to secure recognition as a first-class Power, not only in point of military strength, but also in point of civilisation and commerce. To use her prospective position in China for the purpose of expelling the foreigner and hampering trade instead of policing the country would be fatal to that object. Moreover, if trade was hampered and the country left unpoliced how could the "enormous and efficient armies" of China be maintained?

But although the conclusion of an alliance between China and Japan may be accepted almost as a certainty it cannot be supposed that Japan will be allowed an absolutely free hand in the reorganisation of China. All the principal Powers will have a word to say in the matter, and although their mutual jealousies may up to a certain point restrain them from active interference, any symptom of an aggressive spirit on the part of Japan would soon call into being an adverse coalition. So long, however, as Japan's policy in China works simply for the reformation of the country we take it she will have the moral support and active co-operation of Great Britain, and possibly also that of some of the other Powers. But with the present Government in power at Peking, with its corruption and peculation, it will be difficult to effect any tangible improvement in the condition of the country and of its public services. Unless the Japanese can secure full executive control their chances of success are small, and the Empress Dowager and the mandarins would hardly be prepared to surrender such control in practice, even though they made paper promises to that effect. In China in its present transition state almost anything may happen, and it would not be altogether surprising if the Chino-Japanese alliance led up to another Chino-Japanese war owing to China failing to act up to her engagements and generally exhibiting bad faith.

RUSSIA AND THE CHINO-JAPANESE ALLIANCE.

(Daily Press, 11th August.)

That there is something definite and real in the proposed alliance between China and Japan would appear from the announcement telegraphed by Reuter under date of the 8th inst. This states that a note from M. de Giers warns China that an alliance with Japan will give great offence to Russia and that the consequences would be most serious. There can be no doubt that the Russian Chancellor means all that he says. At the present moment Russia and Japan regard each other with profound distrust. The Japanese, it must be confessed, have some reason for this distrust. They have not forgotten the exchange of Saghalien for the Kuriles forced upon them by pressure, and they have a still livelier recollection of the part Russia played against them so recently in the Liaotung peninsula. When with the aid of her allies, France and Germany, Russia was able to warn off the victorious Japanese armies from taking permanent possession of the territory known as the Regent's Sword, she did not breathe a hint of what was intended to be the ultimate fate of that important peninsula. But the plans of the Russian railways were, if we mistake not, already in existence, and the agents of the Czar had marked the

region for their own. When Japan woke up to this fact, a little later on, she was of course indignant, but powerless. The incident, however, taught her a lesson, which she will not easily forget.

Now that China, having been stripped bare of the tiger's skin in which she had masqueraded, stands revealed in all her weakness and puerility, though potentially strong still by reason of wealth and numbers, the Japanese Government seem to have formed the idea that the troops, if only efficiently drilled and led, would soon become valuable fighting material. Whether the Japanese could convert the Chinese hosts into a disciplined army that would stand against a Russian army is a matter for speculation, but the prospect of any attempt of the kind being attempted must be sufficiently disquieting to Russia, and is evidently regarded with uneasiness in St. Petersburg. If the stubborn little Japanese, with their discipline and patience, could succeed in utilising the vast stores of raw material in the Central Kingdom there is no foreseeing the end. The tables might be altogether reversed, and the tide of invasion be turned against Russia. The idea of an alliance between Japan and China could in no case be regarded with perfect equanimity by Russia even if her relations with the former were more assured. As it is, Russia has thrown down the gage to Japan, and the latter must either take it up or abandon her ambition to be recognised as a dominant factor in the course of international politics in the Far East.

M. de Giers' note is addressed to China, but it is intended as a warning of hands off to Japan. A war between Russia and Japan has been predicted for some years past, and Russia's present warning cannot but be regarded as bringing the prediction nearer realisation. It is, indeed, not beyond the bounds of credibility that Japan may have intended from the outset to provoke such a warning in order to bring matters between Russia and herself to a head. It is considered in many quarters that as things stand at present Japan would have a fair chance of emerging victorious from a conflict with the Colossus of the North, but that if the war be postponed until after the completion of the Siberian and Manchurian railways and the consolidation of the Russian position she would be placed at an almost hopeless disadvantage. If that theory be accepted by Japan it would constitute a very good reason for precipitating a quarrel, supposing war to be regarded as sooner or later inevitable. The other Powers, however, might object to having the peace of the Far East disturbed again so soon, and the principles of mediation and arbitration so recently aired at the Hague Conference might be placed before the disputants. There is abundant room for conjecture, but one thing is certain, namely, that the situation is full of danger. We can only hope that British statesmen are alive to the changed and changing conditions in the Far East, and will take care that the interests of Great Britain suffer nothing in the struggle for pre-eminence.

At the Magistracy on Saturday an arms dealer at 191, Queen's Road Central, was fined \$100 for an offence against the Arms Ordinance. A coolie who was arrested in Praya East on Friday with three rifles and seven revolvers in his possession said he was engaged to carry the arms. Subsequent enquiries showed that the arms had been sold by the arms dealer in question to a person who was not in possession of a license. Hence the arms dealer was summoned and dealt with as stated above, the coolie being discharged with a caution.

THE RUMOUR OF ABDICATION OF THE CZAR.

(Daily Press, 9th August)

The Russian rumour to which the Paris correspondent of *The Times* refers, though at first blush rather startling, is not so wildly improbable as some persons might suppose. To begin with, NICHOLAS II. has never coveted place or power. He is a young man of refined but simple tastes, with no passion for display or craving for the exercise of that autocratic power his family have so long wielded over the Russian people. He is a lover of free institutions, a hater of war and all its attendant horrors, and he has no ambition to carry out a great programme, like that of his rude but illustrious predecessor PETER THE GREAT. He only craves for opportunities to better the condition of his people and to give to them freer institutions. His first great scheme was to bring about international disarmament as a means presumably of lessening the burdens of the nation, and though he has not succeeded immediately in this project, some progress has been made in this direction. No doubt the comparative failure was due to the general want of confidence in Russian statesmen. The Emperor is known to be a friend of peace, but the bureaucratic government of St. Petersburg are by no means so persuaded of its blessings. If Russia can get all she wants without appealing to the sword well and good, but if not, then no Muscovite Minister would long counsel the maintenance of the peace. No doubt the Czar has become aware of this fact among many other disillusionments since his accession to the supreme authority. He has learnt, at some cost no doubt to his pride and his inclinations, that however resolved he himself may be to maintain the peace of the world, the acts of Russian officials may at anytime involve him in a long and costly war. Moreover, there is the ever present shadow of Nihilism resting across his path. It may not have been so conspicuous or so threatening as it was in his father's reign, but the forces of anarchy and revolution are not dead; they merely slumber, and may at any moment suddenly bring about a disastrous convulsion. The Emperor NICHOLAS is wide enough awake to be aware of this fact; he is not likely to be living in a fool's palace; he must be, like his father and grandfather, sleeplessly on guard. It is said he has had many bitter disappointments. What these may be we cannot positively say, but there can be little doubt that he regrets the failure of an immediate heir to the throne, both his children being daughters. The death of his brother the Grand Duke GEORGE, the Heir Apparent, was also no doubt a blow to him. The present Heir Apparent, the Grand Duke MICHAEL is only twenty-one years of age, and it would seem very undesirable that the Czar should abdicate in favour of so young and inexperienced a successor. NICHOLAS II. is himself but young, being only thirty-one, but he has travelled round the world, has gathered some useful experience and has now reigned nearly five years. But if the young monarch finds the burden of empire too heavy there is no reason why he should not, if he so elects, shift that burden on to other shoulders. If the Grand Duke MICHAEL is not afraid to accept the responsibility, no one can prevent the transfer except, perhaps, the Russian Ministry, and it may well suit them to get rid of a Czar with such pacific leanings and such a regard for truth as NICHOLAS II. The devious ways of Muscovite statecraft can

work better with a Prince who is not troubled with too many scruples or who is not too hampered with proclivities for peace at any reasonable price. But the retirement of NICHOLAS II. into private life would unquestionably prove a maleficent fact in European and doubtless, also in Asiatic politics. The present Czar acts now, there is reason to believe, as a restraining influence on Russian politics, and prevents much aggression that would otherwise have been inaugurated. NICHOLAS II. has, it is believed, strong leanings towards Great Britain. He is nephew to the PRINCE OF WALES and rightly attaches great weight to the advice of his royal uncle. Whether the Grand Duke MICHAEL has any special predilections, or whether he would prove a pliant tool in the hands of ambitious Ministers, it is yet too early to pronounce an opinion upon, but it is not unlikely that he would be much more easily led, and in the present situation of affairs this would not be likely to make for peace. With Russia as the keeper of the peace—a role first assumed by ALEXANDER III. and since followed so faithfully by his successor—there is little chance of a great war, but an ambitious and aggressive Chancellor might readily reverse this policy if a young monarch more solicitous for extended power than for pacific triumphs were to fill the throne of the ROMANOFS. While therefore conceding the possibility of the report fanned by the *Times* correspondent in Paris, we will hope, for the sake of the world at large, and the peaceful development of Eastern Asia in particular, that it may not prove correct. NICHOLAS II. has clearly a mission to fulfil, and long may he be spared and great may be his powers for carrying it out.

THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS ORDINANCE.

(Daily Press, 8th August.)

The Bill to amend the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance, 1897, which comes on for second reading at to-morrow's meeting of the Legislative Council, will probably not have any very appreciable effect in diminishing the prevalence of contagious disease in the colony, but it may be expected to work a great improvement in suppressing outrages on public decency, in getting rid of the very undesirable class of men who live on the earnings of women of ill fame, and also, as the name of the Bill implies, in increasing the protection to women and girls against being drawn into or retained in a life of prostitution against their will. It is much to be regretted that the home Government declines to sanction any really effective steps being taken to prevent the spread of contagious disease. The strength of the garrison and fleet is greatly reduced by this cause, and earnest representations have been made to secure the re-enactment of measures which while they were in force proved effective in lessening disease, but the success which has attended these representing is very limited, the present Bill simply providing a penalty for permitting a woman suffering from contagious disease to remain in a brothel. This, in the absence of any provision for the systematic detection of disease, is not likely to have any very great effect. In other respects, however, the Bill will prove of material value. Section 4 provides that brothels may be closed on the complaint of the Captain Superintendent of Police or the Registrar-General, and it will no longer be necessary, as in the present state of the law, to prove to the magistrate that the place is a

nuisance to the neighbourhood. During the last few years, since the registration system was abandoned, objectionable houses have been opened all over the colony, much to the annoyance of the respectable population both Native and Foreign, and the relief promised by the present Bill will be much appreciated. Section 5 imposes a penalty upon an owner who allows his premises to be again used as a brothel after they have been once closed as such. "Wuer" in this case means the person for the time being receiving the rent or a consideration for the use of the premises whether on his own account or as agent or trustee for any other person, so that where property is sublet, as is so very largely the practice in Hongkong, it will be the person to whom the tenant actually pays the rent who will be held responsible, which is reasonable, for he is the person who has the selection of the tenants and is therefore in a position to exercise control in the matter. Section 6 gives to the police and the Registrar-General's officers extended powers of visitation and search and interrogation, which will facilitate the discovery of abuses and increase the protection the law is supposed to afford to the unfortunate inmates of houses of ill fame. Section 7 renders male persons trading in prostitution liable to imprisonment and, in the case of foreigners, to banishment. The class of persons to be dealt with under this section is, as mentioned in the statement of objects and reasons attached to the Bill, on the increase in the colony, and it is to be hoped that when the Bill comes into operation this provision will be strictly enforced, for it is very much needed. Altogether the Bill promises to prove a very useful piece of legislation, the only point for regret being that the home Government could not be induced to sanction more effective provisions for the prevention of disease, that being a decidedly weak point in the measure.

LANDLORDS AND THEIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR DISORDERLY HOUSES.

(Daily Press, 10th August.)

In the consideration of the Women and Girls Protection Amendment Bill by the Legislative Council on Tuesday a discussion arose as to the liability of owners who allow their premises to be used as houses of ill fame, and ultimately the decision on this important point was postponed. The Bill as drafted provides that after the use of any premises as a brothel has been discontinued under the provisions of section 4 of the Ordinance (i.e., by order of a Magistrate) the owner of such premises shall, if such premises are found to be again in use as a brothel, be liable upon summary conviction before a Magistrate to the payment of a fine not exceeding \$500. The interpretation clause provides that the word "owner" is to have the same meaning as in Ordinance 9 of 1897. Referring to the last named Ordinance we find that the definition is as follows:—"Owner" of "premises means the person for the time being receiving the rent or a consideration for the use of premises whether on his own account or as agent or trustee for any other person, or who would receive the same if such place were let to a tenant." This definition was copied from Ordinance 11 of 1890 except that "owner" "of premises" was substituted for "tenant". "owner of a brothel." The question of the liability of the owner was never fully discussed in 1890 in connection with the

gistration, the registration system being then in force and the owner being made responsible for the use of his premises as an unregistered brothel. The Attorney-General (the present Acting Chief Justice) in 1890, after pointing out that an owner of property was not to be absolved from all responsibility as to who occupies his property or what goes on in it so long as he gets good profits, went on to say:—"On the other hand we might have the case of a large company, with a Secretary appointed to act for them, and houses owned by them might fail to be registered although they were ignorant of it. It would be rather a serious thing for them if this clause were put in force against them. I do not know whether the Secretary would have to be sent to prison for six months or whether they would have to send the whole Company." The case was met on that occasion by the introduction of the words "if he knowingly allows the place to be used as a brothel" and "provided that no prosecution shall be commenced against the owner without the fiat of the Attorney-General." Soon afterwards the registration system was abolished and the liability of the owner in that respect consequently ceased. During the time the law was in force, if our recollection serves us aright, no prosecution was instituted against any owner, or at all events no case was carried on appeal to the Supreme Court to secure a decision as to the actual person responsible under the section, whether the owner of the property, the farmer (in cases where the rent was farmed out), or a tenant who might sub-let a portion of the premises occupied by him. The phraseology of the definition clause leaves room for argument on these points, the words "whether on his own account or as agent or trustee for any other person" leaving it doubtful whether the landlord's original responsibility does not devolve upon his agents or principal tenants in cases where he does not himself let the premises out by single rooms or floors. However that may be, the definition of owner was allowed to stand without challenge when Ordinance 9 of 1897 was passed, but that is not strictly pertinent to the present question, for that Ordinance dealt with the unlawful detention of females and offences against their persons, and the owner only became liable upon proof of guilty knowledge, in which case the punishment provided was not a fine, but imprisonment and, on a second conviction, whipping. The question at present engaging the attention of the Legislative Council is how premises unlawfully used as brothels are to be dealt with and the responsibility to be thrown on the owner in such cases. We would venture to suggest to the hon. members that they might possibly derive some assistance from a perusal of the debates which took place on the 23rd and 30th June, 1890, and we would especially invite attention to the speech of Mr. N. G. MITCHELL-INNES, at that time Acting Registrar-General, who advocated a continuance of the old system, which was to seal up the premises until a bond was given against their being again improperly used. In cases where there is a difficulty in settling responsibility as between various individuals the system of dealing with the matter *in rem* has much to recommend it, since it enforces obedience to the law and leaves the parties interested to settle their several responsibilities between themselves. If that should be the decision arrived at by the Legislative Council we hope it that landlords in leasing their property to a farmer would insert a pro-

vision in the agreement to the effect that payment of the rent should not cease by reason of any portion of the property being sealed up for offences against the law, and the farmer again would make a similar stipulation with his sub-tenants, so that it would be to everybody's interest to avoid any infraction of the law, or if in the hope of gain the risk of breaking the law were incurred the responsibility would be most likely to fall on the actual breakers or on those who either by guilty knowledge or neglect allowed the breach to take place.

THE ARMS TRADE AT MACAO AND HONGKONG.

(*Daily Press*, 9th August.)

A reference which recently appeared in our columns to the arrival of a shipment of warlike stores at Macao has given offence to our contemporary the *Echo Macanese*, which in its issue of the 6th instant writes as follows:—"In consequence of the prohibition of the export of ammunition from Hongkong to Macao, the holder of the gunpowder monopoly in Macao ordered direct from Germany some thousand casks of powder for his trade, and the steamer carrying the same has arrived. This simple and natural fact is sufficient to excite the ill will of our Hongkong contemporaries, which do not hesitate to say that the goods will pass into the hands of pirates and bandits. And the ammunition which is continually arriving from England at Hongkong and which is sold in some twenty shops that deal in goods of this description, where does it go? If the ammunition imported into Macao by a single steamer and on one occasion only is to have the destination indicated by our contemporaries, with how much more reason must it be admitted that the ammunition imported at Hongkong and sold there, which is ten or twenty times greater in amount, must have the same destination? People see the mote in another's eye and see not the beam in their own. It was ever thus." We can assure our contemporary that the simple remark that the ammunition would no doubt find its way into the hands of pirates and brigands was made in no spirit of self-righteousness on our part. It is undisputed, we think, that the bulk of the arms and ammunition sold in Hongkong is purchased by or on account of rebels, pirates, and brigands. A few rifles may be occasionally purchased by honest people who require them *bond fide* for their own protection, but if those were the only people to be supplied the trade would soon dwindle to small proportions. It is from those who prey on honest people that the great demand comes. The unusual circumstance of a direct shipment of warlike stores to Macao was merely noted as indicative of the increasing extent of this demand. As regards the supply of arms to pirates and brigands Hongkong and Macao are both in the same boat, and for the one to throw aspersions upon the other in the matter would be a case of the pot calling the kettle black. As to the *China Mail*'s remark, that "should Macao contribute in any way to the lawlessness of the hinterland of Hongkong, it may be the painful duty of the British authorities to express their strong disapproval, and if no heed is taken of these protests, then, in our own defence, the action to be taken may have an important bearing on the future existence of Macao as a Portuguese colony"—the natural comment is that Hongkong had better set its own house in order before it begins to teach the neighbouring

Portuguese colony how to regulate its affairs. The Hongkong regulation prohibiting the export of arms and ammunition, in the absence of any machinery for its systematic enforcement, is little better than a dead letter.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

On Tuesday afternoon a meeting of the Hongkong Legislative Council was held in the Council Chamber at the Government Offices, there being present:

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR (Sir Henry Blake, G.C.M.G.)

Hon. J. H. STEWART LOCKHART, C.M.G., Colonial Secretary.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK (Acting Attorney-General).

Hon. R. MURRAY RUMSEY (Harbour Master).

Hon. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Captain Superintendent of Police).

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. R. D. ORMSBY (Director of Public Works).

Hon. C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI.

Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD.

Hon. E. R. BELLIOS, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Mr. J. G. T. BUCKLE (Clerk of Councils).

REVENUE AND COST OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY, in accordance with the request made at the previous meeting by the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, laid on the table a statement of revenue and cost of the medical department. The statement gave the following particulars:

Revenue.—Medical Treatment of Patients in Civil Hospital, 1895, \$15,255.64; 1896, \$18,601.69; 1897, \$16,021.58; 1898, \$26,199.20.

Cost.—Expenditure Government Civil Hospital 1895, \$64,347.88; 1896, \$65,563.94; 1897, \$67,034.26; 1898, \$63,064.07.

Cost.—Expenditure Medical Departments 1895, \$74,291.62; 1896, \$109,763.19; 1897, \$114,978.80; 1898, \$115,502.48.

FINANCIAL.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table financial minute No. 11, and proposed that it be referred to the Finance Committee, the meeting of which would not be held at the conclusion of that meeting. He also laid on the table finance report No. 3 and proposed its adoption. He explained to His Excellency that at the last meeting of the committee several votes referred to the Finance Committee were not considered on account of some of the unofficial members not being present.

THE EXPENDITURE ON THE NEW TERRITORY. IMPORTANT STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR.

The following is one of the votes submitted to the last meeting of the Finance Committee, but not considered on account of the absence of some of the unofficial members:

"The Governor recommends the Council to vote a sum of \$170,000 in aid of the following votes:—New Territory, \$100,000; Plague, \$20,000; Miscellaneous Services (Other), \$40,000; Printing, \$10,000; Total, \$170,000."

His EXCELLENCY the GOVERNOR, alluding to this vote, said—As I shall not be present when this vote of \$100,000 in respect of the new territory comes before the Finance Committee, and as you may like to know what has been done in the new territory, I may say that you will remember that in accordance with the Ordinance it became necessary as soon as we took over this new territory to divide it into districts and sub-districts and to appoint committeemen who would have the confidence of the people. Immediately after the taking over of the new territory the Colonial Secretary devoted himself to this work, and he has been busily engaged ever since in defining these districts, after personally inspecting them, and in recommending the committeemen, of whom there are about 350, after consultation with the people. This arduous duty was only completed a fortnight ago by the Colonial Secretary, and I may say that at the same time it was necessary to make arrangements for land registration and other matters of that kind. All these

things have been done with practically no increase to the permanent staff of the colony, or with but a very slight increase. The Colonial Secretary has been doing duty as District Magistrate, in addition to his other duties, for the time being, pending the appointment of a gentleman for the post. It became clear from the time we took over this extended area that it was an absolute necessity to have a road to Taipohu and probably on to the frontier, and that road was put in hand without any delay. I believe I am right in saying the road will be open to Shatin by Christmas, and that probably it will be open to Taipohu in the course of next year. It is also necessary to have Police Stations and to have accommodation for the staff of officials who will be employed at Taipohu. The events of the 17th to the 20th April showed us that the very modest police establishment first contemplated for the new territory would not be sufficient, consequently we are building police stations at Taipohu, Pingan, Un Loong, and Foutian; and I think I may say that police stations will subsequently be erected at Shatin, Saikau, Taiho, and Tsin-chum. These are all the public works I propose to undertake for the present in the new territory. The amount of money expended in public works was in round figures \$35,300 down to the 31st July and the amount of money necessary to complete the works now in hand will be about \$15,000 more. Besides this sum of \$100,000 one of \$1,000 will be required for the purchase of three launches, which, I need hardly point out to you, are absolutely necessary for the patrolling of the waters. In October I expect a trained corps of surveyors from India and I hope to have a detailed survey of the extended area of the colony within 12 months at an expense of \$40,000. These, as far as I can see, are all the expenses before us at the present moment. You must not imagine there is any intention to starve this part of the colony for the purpose of carrying on public works in the new territory. It is not intended to do so in any way. At one time, in looking into the possibilities of the future, I did think that a considerable amount of extra taxation would have been necessary. I am glad to say that on looking more closely into the matter, and taking the probabilities of the revenue for the next two or three years, I have come to the conclusion that the very small amount laid before the Council will be all that is necessary. I think that with our revenue we shall be able to do all the public works we require to do on this side the colony and in the suggested area out of revenue within the next two or three years—(hear, hear)—and when I say that I mean all the public works contemplated in this part of the colony. As I say I expect and I hope that the whole of that will be met from general revenue without any necessity for any extra taxation. In the meantime if any temporary advance is necessary I have been authorised to arrange with the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank for an overdraft. I think it is well honourable members should know all this before you enter on the consideration of the minute which will be laid before you. (Applause.)

QUESTIONS.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I beg to ask the question standing in my name.

The question was as follows:—

"Will the Government lay upon the table copy of Despatch No. 107 of 28th April last to the Secretary of State for the Colonies, and its enclosure, regarding the recent disturbances in connection with the taking over of the New Territory leased by China to Great Britain by the June Convention of last year and any other Despatches from the Colonial Government to the Home Authorities bearing on the subject?"

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply to the honourable member I beg to state:—Yes. The despatches are being printed and will be laid on the table as soon as possible.

The Hon. E. R. BELLIOS said—I beg to ask the question which stands in my name.

The question was as follows:—"Referring to the report by the Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart on the Kowloon Extension to the Colony, will the Government state what is the source of the information referred to in paragraph 1 under head of Revenue, page 13 of

the Blue Book, stating:—"But from information derived from another source it is estimated that the annual revenue for that portion of the Sun On District contained within the leased area amounts to \$160,000, or, say, £16,000," this being an increase of more than a lakh of dollars on the estimate given by the Sun On District Magistrate for the territory in question?"

The COLONIAL SECRETARY—In reply to the honourable gentleman I beg to answer as follows:—The Government is not aware of the source from which the information was derived. I may add that the information having been given privately and confidentially to the writer of the Report on the Extension of the Colony of Hongkong he is not at liberty to state its source.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I beg to give notice that at the next meeting of the Council I will ask the following question:—"Will the Government inform the Council of the reasons why the proposal to expend a substantial amount of public money for repairs and alterations to Beaconsfield was not submitted to the Public Works Committee for their consideration and report, under what authority has the said sum of \$19,076.70 been disbursed, and why have not the new public works undertaken since middle of last year been referred to the Public Works Committee for consideration and report to the Council before same were commenced."

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—May I suggest to honourable members that in asking questions they should be asked of some head of department and not of the Government generally.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I am simply following the custom hitherto followed.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—if you will allow me I will change it.

THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL, in proposing the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Protection of Women and Girls Ordinance 1897, said—Honourable members will see from the objects and reasons attached to this Bill the reason why the Bill has been brought before the Council. Clause 1 of the Bill is purely formal. Clause 2 of the Bill defines certain terms used in this Bill. Clause 3 is a very important clause of the Bill, and perhaps I may as well read it out in full. Clause 3 of the Bill runs as follows:—"The following new section to be numbered 11A shall be inserted after section 11 of the principal Ordinance:—11A.—Every person who, being the occupier or keeper of any brothel, permits any woman suffering from any contagious disease to be or remain in such brothel for the purpose of prostitution, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on conviction before the Supreme Court or a Magistrate to imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year or to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to both; and if any person, not being a natural born or naturalized British subject, who has been previously convicted of an offence under this section, shall again be found guilty of such an offence the Governor-in-Council may issue an Order banishing such person from Colony under any Banishment laws which may from time to time be in force in this Colony. In the case of any prosecution under this section, it shall not be necessary for the prosecution to prove that such occupier or keeper as aforesaid knew that the woman was suffering from a contagious disease, but such knowledge shall be presumed by the Court or Magistrate unless such occupier or keeper satisfies the Court or Magistrate that he had not such knowledge." I think that will be a very important clause indeed because, as honourable members will see, it imposes a penalty upon the keeper or occupier of any brothel who permits a woman suffering from contagious disease to remain in such brothel for the purpose of prostitution; and honourable members will see from the second paragraph that the onus lies upon the occupier or keeper of the brothel to see that she has not in her brothel any woman suffering from a contagious disease. I think, it is not at all unreasonable that this onus should be thrown upon the occupier or keeper of a brothel, and it seems necessary that

this should be the case if this clause is to have any practical effect. Clause 4 is also an important clause. It differs from section 4 of Ordinance 6 of 1894 in that it is not necessary to prove on the complaint of three or more householders that a brothel is a nuisance to a neighbourhood before a Magistrate can order it to be closed. It has been found that there has been some difficulty in getting householders to come forward to complain. Honourable members will see by Clause 4 of this Bill that "Upon complaint laid before a Magistrate by the Captain Superintendent of Police or the Registrar-General that any house or portion thereof is used as a lodging house for prostitutes or disorderly persons or as a brothel, it shall be lawful for the Magistrate to issue a summons to the occupier or keeper of the house or portion thereof of which complaint is made; and upon the hearing of the case if the Magistrate is satisfied that the house or some portion thereof is used in the manner complained of he may order the occupier or keeper to discontinue such use of it; and if such order is not complied with within such time as the Magistrate may by his order direct the Magistrate may impose upon such occupier or keeper a fine not exceeding fifty dollars for every day that the house or any portion thereof shall be so used after the time directed by the Magistrate's order." I think this is a most necessary clause. The tendency of late has been, I am informed, for brothels to be scattered about all quarters of the town. A good many are now found in places where respectable Chinamen and their families are living, and that is a most undesirable state of affairs. (Hear, hear.) In regard to clause 5 of the Bill, it has been pointed out to me by the honourable member on my left (the Hon. Dr. Ho Kai) that it might be rather hard upon owners of property, and I understand that he intends to move an amendment in committee. Clause 5 is as follows:—"After the use of any premises as a brothel has been discontinued under the provisions of section 4 of this Ordinance, the owner of such premises shall, if such premises are found to be again in use as a brothel, be liable upon summary conviction before a Magistrate to the payment of a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars." I understand that the honourable member proposes to move in committee an amendment to the effect that the owner shall not be liable to conviction if he has taken every reasonable precaution against the premises being used as a brothel. With regard to clause 6 of the Bill, it gives extended powers to a European officer of police not below the rank of sergeant, and says:—"Any European Officer of Police not being below the rank of sergeant who is generally authorized in writing for that purpose by the Captain Superintendent of Police and any person who is generally authorized in writing by the Registrar-General for that purpose may at all times without notice enter and demand to see and interrogate any or all the inmates of any place on land or water which he may have reason to believe is used as a lodging-house for prostitutes or disorderly persons or as a brothel, or in connection with which he may have reason to believe that an offence has been committed under this Ordinance." Clause 7 of the Bill is taken from the Act of Parliament passed at home last year dealing with male persons living on the earnings of a prostitute. I think it will be found that that clause is a useful clause to have in this colony, because the male persons who make a living out of the earnings of women are getting rather numerous in this colony, and it is time they were dealt with in some way. I shall have to move in committee an amendment to sub-section 3 of clause 7. The section should run "Be habitually in the company of a prostitute" instead of "in company of a prostitute." With regard to clause 8 of the Bill, that is based on instructions received from the Secretary of State for the Colonies for the amendment of section 30 of Ordinance 9 of 1897. Sub-section 1 is practically identical with section 30 of Ordinance 9 of 1897, but subsection 2 is new and gives the Registrar-General power to search any ship, boat, house, building, or other place for the purpose of ascertaining whether there is therein any woman or girl who is or may be liable to be dealt with under the provisions of this Ordinance, or whether any offence under this Ordinance is being committed and may remove any such

[August 12, 1899.]

woman or girl to a place of safety to be there detained until her case be enquired into."

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the Bill passed the second reading.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI—I propose to move an amendment to clause 5. After the words "five hundred dollars" at the end of the section I propose that the following words be added, "provided always that if the owner shall prove to the satisfaction of the magistrate that every reasonable precaution has been taken by him to prevent such premises from being used as a brothel he shall not be convicted." The section as it stands seems to me to impose a very great hardship upon the owners of houses. It is not as if on a man being convicted of keeping a brothel he applied to the landlord again for permission to rent a house, because in that case if the landlord let the house to a man who had been convicted of keeping a brothel the landlord should very properly be convicted and fined \$500. But a new tenant may come and take the house from him and use it again as a brothel. People may say that a landlord instead of standing by and enjoying the income derived from the rents of his houses should assist the Government and the public generally to put down brothels. And I think they should do something to show that they have taken some trouble in ascertaining the class of tenants they are about to get to rent their houses. Therefore I would have these words put in as I have suggested; One can understand the difference between my amendment and the one which I believe my honourable friend opposite wishes to bring forward to meet the case. If a landlord is absent from the colony and during his absence the premises are let to someone who may make use of them as a brothel, he may prove that he has no knowledge of such a thing, but it does not put upon the landlord the duty of doing something for the benefit of the public or of helping the Government to stop these sly brothels or brothels existing next to respectable family houses.

I think it is well known to every honourable member of this council that the feeling of the public is very strong upon this point—that all brothels should be kept away from the residences of respectable people (hear, hear)—and that they should be confined to a certain locality, if they cannot be banished altogether. If the Government are to carry out this measure with any hope of success, they must have the co-operation of the landlords, and the landlords can give them such co-operation by taking some precaution before they let out their premises to intended tenants, such as making some enquiry about their intended tenants or taking security from the tenant, or by giving instructions to the rent collectors or staffs to go round at night time personally paying surprise visits and if they find out that these places are frequented by men and if the inmates openly receive visitors they could report to the landlord, who could report to the Registrar-General or the Captain Superintendent of Police. In this way they would make themselves safe from conviction and at the same time would be assisting the Government in carrying out the law, and would also confer a benefit on the public by assisting in driving all these houses of ill-fame to one locality and away from the houses occupied by the respectable Chinese and European families. With these few remarks I beg leave to propose this amendment.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—Not knowing that the honourable member opposite was about to propose an amendment I intended to do so myself, but after the remarks made by him I am perfectly agreeable to accept that amendment and to second his proposal. There is no doubt if the section is kept as it is now it would be a very great hardship upon the landlords. A landlord is not supposed to know exactly who the man is who comes to rent a house from him. He comes and bargains and then sublets each floor. Perhaps the first floor is used as a brothel and then the landlord is summoned and fined \$50. Supposing a house is closed for being a brothel and two or three months afterwards changes hands. Some new owner comes, and he does not know that the house has been closed as a brothel. If it is used as such again he is brought before the

magistrate, and unless the magistrate has some discretionary power on the landlord proving he had no knowledge of the matter he would have to be fined \$500, and that would be a great hardship. If the Attorney-General is not prepared to accept the amendment of the honourable member I have an amendment which I shall be very glad to bring forward.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—I take it that the object of the Bill is that the landlord should know something about his tenants and should take some security from the proposed tenant in order to safeguard himself.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—As far as the safeguard is concerned it is out of the question to get security from people who pay from \$10 to \$12 a month for a floor. There is security given when it is farmed out to a Chinaman, and in a case like that the farmer should be the one brought forward and punished and not the landlord. The landlord has no power over these tenants. He cannot even by law distrain for rent. He can only sue the farmer. The landlord is perfectly helpless in the matter. I think the Attorney-General will say that that is so?

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The person for the time being receiving the rent or a consideration for the use of the premises is the person to be proceeded against. That is according to the interpretation clause.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—In a case like that mentioned by the honourable member they both receive consideration—both the landlord and the farmer.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—I take it that the person who immediately receives consideration is meant.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—I think the owner should not be exonerated, because this system of farming out large blocks of building is a most pernicious one.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—Would it not be possible to prepare such an agreement in letting a house as would cover the owner in the event of certain things being done which ought not to be done?

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—There is absolutely no agreement in connection with these houses except that entered into with the farmer. A person takes a floor and pays \$10 or \$12 a month rent and no document passes between the parties. Where there is a farmer there is an agreement of security. But in that case the landlord cannot turn a tenant out; it is the farmer who can do that.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—But the landlord has power to make a penal clause to ensure that his premises are used properly.

The CAPTAIN SUPERINTENDENT OF POLICE—I would like to point out that the landlord has got his rent collector. I never find any difficulty myself in finding out from the rent collectors who the occupiers of the floors are. I had a case the other day, and I found out who paid the rent of the house by going to the rent collector. He knew all about it, although he was a Chinaman. I think it is very desirable to bring home to the landlords their responsibility. At present some of them take no trouble whatever in the matter. I can quote cases where persons who have been annoyed by brothels and who could not get a certain number of householders to go before the Magistrate have complained to the landlord but without result.

The Hon. Dr. HO KAI—in the amendment I propose that the landlord shall prove to the satisfaction of the magistrate that every precaution has been taken by him. My object is to get the landlord to co-operate with the Government, and if he failed to show to the Magistrate that he has taken every precaution to prevent his premises being used as a brothel then the Magistrate would be right in convicting him.

The Hon. C. P. CHATER—I think some such discretion ought to be allowed to the Magistrate, otherwise it would touch very hardly upon the landlord.

After some further comment, the Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD suggested that this clause should be left over for further consideration, and his suggestion was adopted.

The rest of the clauses were then gone through and some slight alterations made.

The Council then resumed, clause 5 being left over for consideration.

NATURALIZATION.

The Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Naturalization of Yeung Chenk Hin alias Yeung Shun Kong was read second time, and after it had been considered in committee it was read a third time and passed.

THE CONCEALING OF OPIUM ON STEAMERS.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL, in proposing the second reading of the Bill entitled an Ordinance for the Prevention of the Concealment of Opium on board Steamships, said—As honourable members will see from the objects and reasons of the Bill the object of this Bill is to impose a penalty upon any person found concealing opium on board of any ship. This Ordinance has been brought forward in consequence of representations made by the Chamber of Commerce to the effect that persons have sometimes concealed opium on board of ships bound for Saigon, and that such concealment has led to very heavy fines being inflicted upon the ship on her arrival in Saigon, upon such opium being pointed out by informers there who most probably have been in communication with the actual concealers of the opium. As the law stands at present no punishment can be inflicted upon any person found concealing opium on board a ship, and it seems desirable to remedy that state of affairs, in order to place some check upon the concealment of opium on board ship.

The COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded and the motion was carried.

The Council then went into committee to consider the Bill clause by clause.

The Hon. E. R. BELILIOS—May I ask if the Bill refers to sailing vessels.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—The Chamber of Commerce were expressly asked if this Bill should include sailing vessels, but they thought it would be sufficient if it included steamships only.

The COLONIAL TREASURER—I do not know why it should not include sailing ships.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—The chances are remote as regards sailing ships, but there is no reason why they should not be included.

His EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR—The object of this Bill is to prevent the concealment of opium on board steamships going to Saigon and then telling the authorities by telegraph where the opium could be found for the purpose of obtaining the large reward as informer. I think the Bill is all that is necessary without any addition.

The Bill passed through the committee stage and was read a third time and passed.

THE LIQUOR LICENCES ORDINANCE.

The Council went into committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Liquor Licences Ordinance, 1898.

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that clause 3 be amended by the substitution of the word "September" for the word "July" and that clause 3 be renumbered, clause 4 and the following new clause be inserted in the Bill and numbered clause 3, namely:—"Sub-section 4 of section 31 of Ordinance 24 of 1898 is hereby amended by substituting a comma for a full stop after the word licence, and by adding to such sub-section the following words, namely, 'and no liquor shall be sold or drunk on the premises by other persons than those of Chinese race between the hours of midnight and 6 a.m.'"

The Acting Attorney-General explained that the object of introducing this new clause was to prevent European and American soldiers and sailors from drinking at Chinese restaurants during the hours when public houses are shut.

The HARBOUR-MASTER—I understand that the Chinese may drink all night but that Europeans and Americans may not do so. Is that so?

The ACTING ATTORNEY-GENERAL—That is so.

The Bill passed the committee stage and Council resumed.

THE CATTLE DISEASES ORDINANCE.

The Bill entitled an Ordinance to further amend the Cattle Diseases, Slaughter-houses, and Markets Ordinances was read a third time and passed.

APPROPRIATION.

The Council went into committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to authorise the Appropriation of a Supplementary Sum of Three hundred and Eight thousand Six hundred and

Seventy-two Dollars and Eighty-seven cents, to defray the Charges of the Year 1898.

The Hon. T. H. WHITEHEAD—May I ask if the item "miscellaneous services \$117,05.09" or the item "other miscellaneous \$21,539.64" covers the cost of the litigation involved in connection with Beaconsfield?

The COLONIAL TREASURER—No, sir, it does not.

The Bill passed the committee stage.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council then adjourned until Thursday fortnight.

SUPREME COURT

August 4th

CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN (ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE.) AND A SPECIAL JURY.

THE UN. LOONG MURDER.

The trial of Ng Ki Cheung, Ng Tung, and Liu Tuk Lup for the murder of Chan Kwai Tsui Tui at Un Loong on the 18th April was resumed.

The Acting Attorney-General (the Hon. H. E. Pollock), instructed by Mr. Bowley (Crown Solicitor) prosecuted; Mr. Slade, in the absence of Mr. J. J. Francis, Q.C. (instructed by Messrs. Mounsey and Bruton), appeared for the two first prisoners, and Mr. Melbourne for the third.

The following were the jurors:—Messrs. A. J. Rozario, F. C. P. Sachse, G. T. Veitch, A. H. Bottenheim, J. F. C. Jebson, G. Stewart, and A. Denison.

All the evidence having been given,

Mr. Slade summed up for the defence, his address lasting from half-past ten in the morning to well on into the afternoon. At the outset he expressed his regret that illness had prevented his friend Mr. Francis from continuing the defence, but added that he felt sure the jury would not allow any of his (Mr. Slade's) imperfections to weigh with them against prisoners. Alluding to the evidence, he said that either the witnesses for the prosecution or those for the defence had perjured themselves. Even if the jury were not altogether satisfied with the evidence for the defence, they could say that they did not think the evidence for the prosecution was sufficiently satisfactory to warrant their returning a verdict of guilty. Mr. Slade then proceeded to deal with the evidence for the prosecution, commenting upon it as he went along.

The Acting Attorney-General followed, and the case had not concluded when the Court rose.

5th August.

His Lordship, in summing up, said he had in the first place to thank the jury for the very great attention and care which they had paid to the evidence which had been given and to the addresses of counsel in the case. It remained for him to lay down the law applicable to the subject, then it would be for the jury to consider as to whether or not prisoners were guilty of murder or not. His Lordship, continuing, said—Murder is unlawful homicide with malice aforethought. If A unlawfully kill B intentionally and without legal justification, the malice is presumed. "Malice," says Bayley, J., in delivering the judgment of the Court in Bromage v. Prosser, 4 Barnwell and Cresswell, pp. 247-255 "in common acceptation means ill will against a person, but in its legal sense it means a wrongful act done intentionally without just cause or excuse. If I give a perfect stranger a blow likely to produce death, I do it of malice because I do it without just cause or excuse." Now those who killed Chan Kwai Shu Tsai on the night of 17th April, or as the evidence tends to show soon after midnight, and therefore on the 18th April (the date is immaterial) were undoubtedly guilty of murder. No lawful justification for the act, no lawful excuse, is even suggested. But, in this case, it is necessary to define the legal responsibility of those who were present on the occasion of

his murder. The popular idea of a murderer is that he is the man who actually killed the victim. The legal definition of murderer goes far beyond that. In Sir James Fitzjames Stephens' words "When several persons take part in the execution of a common criminal purpose, each is a principal in the second degree in respect of every crime committed by any one of them in the execution of that purpose." The first instance he gives is a well-known case reported in Hale's Pleas of the Crown and known as the Sissinghurst House Case, a case which occurred more than two centuries ago but is still quoted in the most modern books as good law at the present time. I will read you the case, but I will first give you Sir James Stephens' summary of it. He puts it thus:—"A constable and his assistants go to arrest A at a house in which are many persons, B, C, D, and others come from the house, drive the constable and his assistants off, and one of the assistants is killed either by B, C, D, or one of their party. Each of the party is equally responsible for the blow whether he actually struck it or not." It appears that A, B, C, D, E, F, and others were indicted for murder and tried at the King's Bench bar. Among the points unanimously agreed upon was this:—"That although the indictment was that B gave the stroke and the rest were present, aiding and assisting, though in truth C gave the stroke, or that it did not appear on the evidence which of them gave the stroke, but only that it was given by one of the rioters, yet that evidence was sufficient to maintain the indictment, for in law it was the stroke of all that party according to the resolution in Mackally's case, 9 Coke's Reports, 67.b." But although all who aided and abetted in the killing of Chan Kwai Shu Tsai, and all who directly or indirectly counselled, procured, or commanded his death are in my opinion guilty of murder, I do not lay it down to you that mere presence at his death is sufficient, standing alone, to make everyone present a murderer. On the contrary Sir James Stephens, summing up the effect of the case of Regina v. Coney and others, puts it thus:—"Mere presence on the occasion when a crime is committed does not make a person a principal in the second degree even if he neither makes any effort to prevent the offence or to cause the offender to be apprehended, but such presence may be evidence for the consideration of the jury of an active participation in the offence." Clearly the circumstances must be considered, and I think the matter is well summed up by Mr. Justice Hawkins in the case I have cited, R. v. Coney, 8 Queen's Bench. Law Reports, at pages 557 and 558. He says in giving judgment:—"It is no criminal offence to stand by a mere passive spectator of a crime, even of a murder. Now interference to prevent a crime is not itself a crime. But the fact that a person was voluntarily and purposely present witnessing the commission of a crime and offered no opposition to it, though he might reasonably be expected to prevent and had the power so to do, or at least to express his dissent, might, under some circumstances, afford cogent evidence upon which a jury would be justified in finding that he wilfully encouraged and so aided and abetted. But it would be purely a question for the jury whether he did so. If any number of persons arrange that a criminal offence shall take place and it takes place accordingly, the mere presence of any of those who so arranged it would afford abundant evidence for the consideration of a jury of an aiding and abetting." Therefore, gentlemen, it will be for you first to decide what are the facts in the present case, and then you can apply the law as I have laid it down in considering and deciding upon your verdict, and in considering your verdict you must take the case of the three prisoners separately, one by one, and decide whether in regard to each of them the facts show an "aiding or abetting" or a "counselling, procuring, or commanding," regarding the killing of the deceased man. The position of a mere passer-by or casual bystander would be very different from the position of one who had counselled the death of the deceased, or had carried him bound to the place of execution, or had assented to and was present at the man's death. Now let us proceed to examine the facts of the case, but before doing so I may remind you that at the present day principals, technically of the second degree, and accessories before the fact, are all

responsible to the same extent as the actual person who perpetrates the crime and can be tried and convicted on an indictment charging them with committing the crime itself. In considering your verdict you must find each prisoner not guilty if with regard to him his guilt is not established to your satisfaction by the prosecution beyond any reasonable doubt, and I must remind you that in a case of murder the verdict, whether guilty or not guilty, must be unanimous.

It was one o'clock when the jury retired to consider their verdict. They returned shortly before two, the foreman reporting that they were unanimously of opinion that all the prisoners were guilty, but that they recommended the second prisoner to mercy for the reason that although actually present he took no responsible part in the proceedings.

In consequence of this recommendation, Mr. Slade asked that a verdict of not guilty be returned against the second prisoner. The jury had expressly found that he was only present, but took no active part in the proceedings, and under his Lordship's ruling the second prisoner would be not guilty.

His Lordship having assumed the black cap, said he would first of all sentence the first and third prisoners, which he did in the usual form, both prisoners, when asked if they had anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed on them, repeating that they were not guilty.

On their being removed from the dock—

His Lordship said—As regards the second prisoner, as the matter stands, of course I shall have to forward your recommendation to the Governor, and I have no doubt that it will receive every consideration from His Excellency. At the same time the counsel for the second prisoner says that upon that a verdict of not guilty should be returned. I had better read the exact words:—"For the reason that although actually present he took no responsible part in the proceedings." That is a little ambiguous.

Mr. Slade—With all due deference, my Lord, that is the verdict recorded.

His Lordship—That is the verdict of the jury already given. It is a somewhat ambiguous verdict. A difficulty arises. I do not know whether the jury mean he was a mere passive spectator or that he was more than that—a consenting party. If the jury mean he was a mere passive spectator and not a consenting party, then I think it will be my duty to find him not guilty. We might ask the jury that question, or leave the matter as it stands.

Mr. Pollock—I am quite willing to leave the matter as it stands. Your Lordship very clearly directed the jury that a mere passive spectator would not be guilty of murder.

His Lordship—I have no desire to alter it in any way. I only thought Mr. Slade would prefer that question to be asked. If he prefers the verdict to remain as it stands I will take the verdict as it stands.

Mr. Slade assented.

His Lordship—Well, I think it is my duty to sentence the second prisoner, and I shall forward this recommendation to the proper authorities. Call upon the second prisoner if he has anything to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him.

Ng Tung—I had nothing to do with it. I did not know about it.

His Lordship (to the interpreter)—Tell the prisoner that I pass this sentence upon him, because the jury have found him guilty, and I am compelled by law to pass sentence, but you may tell him also the jury have strongly recommended him to mercy, and although I pass sentence upon him, that recommendation will be forwarded to His Excellency the Governor, who will consider whether this sentence shall be carried into effect or not. That may be some comfort to him.

His Lordship then passed sentence of death.

Mr. Slade—May I advance this on behalf of the prisoners? I ask your Lordship to forward the statement which was not put before the jury for the consideration of His Excellency.

His Lordship—Well, Mr. Slade, I shall adopt the usual course in this matter; I shall make a full report to the Governor upon the case. All these cases are very fully considered by His Excellency the Governor and the Judge's notes are always perused from beginning to end.

Mr. Slade—But this statement does not appear in your notes.

His Lordship—I shall do what I think right and proper.

His Lordship then thanked the jury for their services and said he would see they were not required again until the whole panel had been gone through.

Mr. Pollock entered a *nolle prosequi* on the charge of conspiracy.

August 9th.

IN SUMMARY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE MR. JUSTICE WISE
(PUISNE JUDGE.)

A RATING APPEAL.

This was an appeal by the Hongkong Land Investment and Agency Co., Limited, against the interim assessment, dated 30th June, 1899, of the offices and dwelling on Marine Lot No. 278, in Connaught road (New Praya Central) on the following grounds:—1) That the said tenement is valued beyond its rateable value, the value of certain machinery upon or in the said tenement having been included in the said rateable value, contrary to the provisions of Ordinance No. 15 of 1888, entitled the Rating Ordinance; (2) that the said tenement is valued beyond its rateable value on the date on which such valuation was made (June 30th, 1899), because on the said date certain portions of the said building were unfinished and incapable of beneficial occupation.

Mr. Hastings appeared for the appellants, and Mr. Bowley (Crown Solicitor) for the assessor, Mr. A. Chapman.

The appellants concluded their case at the previous hearing.

Mr. Hastings said that before his friend opened his case there was one matter he should like to mention to his Lordship which was omitted at the previous sitting, and that was the cost of working the lifts. On their view of the case, namely, that the lifts being machinery were not subject to assessment at all, the cost of working was not material, but if the other side's view were accepted—that the machinery was ratable—then the cost of working would clearly have to be taken into account, and he would ask his Lordship to ask Mr. Hooper the cost of the electricity for working the two lifts. The cost of the electricity would be \$1,200 a year and the cost of three lift attendants \$260 a year. There would also be the cost of depreciation—10 per cent., or \$80 a year. That was to say that the expenses of the two lifts would amount to \$2,360 a year. This might possibly come in as a factor.

Mr. Shelton Hooper was recalled by his Lordship and questioned on these points, corroborating Mr. Hastings's statement.

Mr. Bowley then opened the case for the assessor. He referred to the two questions at issue, and said that the first question would be the more important and would probably become more important every month, as the number of buildings in the colony using lifts had increased. But he submitted that the real question was not, Is the lift machinery? No one could possibly deny after the evidence which had been before the court that the electric motor which operated these lifts was machinery of a very complicated kind, but the question was whether there was such machinery in this building as was contemplated by the definition in the Ordinance. As his friend stated in his opening, there were no cases directly on this point, and they had nothing to guide them except the Ordinance—that and the ordinary rules of construing statutes. He submitted that the cases his friend quoted were absolutely off the point, and only went to show that in England heavy stationary machinery was liable to be rated. The section dealing with this matter was apparently adopted from the Imperial statute 6-7 William IV., Chapter 96, section 1. The custom in Hongkong was for the tenant to pay the rates and for the landlord to pay the Crown rent and insurance. In the Hongkong Ordinance these words, which were entirely new, were introduced:—"Such ratable value shall not include the value of any machinery upon or in the tenement."

His Lordship—That is very broad, is it not?

Mr. Bowley submitted that it must be read with the view of the objects of the statute, and he would call attention to Ordinance 5 of 1863. That really was the first rating Ordinance in Hongkong. Section 6 of this Ordinance read:—"In every valuation to be made under the provisions of this Ordinance the person so appointed to make such valuation as aforesaid shall cause every tenement to be separately valued and such valuation shall be made upon an estimate of the gross annual rent at which such tenement might reasonably be expected to let from year to year. The value of a tenement so estimated shall not include the value of any machinery contained therein." These last words were practically the same as those contained in the Ordinance now in operation. No doubt when this Ordinance was drawn up these words were taken from an older statute.

In 1863 the system of rating in force in the colony was guided by the statute 6-7 of William IV. Under this statute machinery was rated, and he submitted that the intention of the Legislature in making this exception was to free manufacturing from a tax upon trade machinery, and to encourage manufacturing industries as much as possible. In 1863 there were no lifts in the colony. He doubted whether at that time there were any such things as house lifts in existence. At that time no doubt there were in the colony a great number of workshops, shipbuilding yards, etc., in which there was a great deal of machinery of such a nature as would have been rated under the English law. That machinery, he submitted, was meant by this Ordinance. In 1888, when the present Ordinance was passed, the position of affairs was practically the same. He believed that in that year there were no lifts in the colony. At that time there were a great many factories in the colony in which there was rating machinery, and he should prove by the assessor that this was the machinery which he had taken as coming under the meaning of the Ordinance, and in rating these places he did not take the machinery into account. He submitted that this law about machinery must be construed in a reasonable way, and if they were to exempt all machinery it would be an absolute absurdity. Machinery had been defined as a mechanical contrivance, and if they were to exempt all mechanical contrivances there were a great many things in a house which would have to be exempted such as locks, window sashes, etc. He submitted that a lift was nothing more than an improved means of getting upstairs and that it was just as much part of a house as the staircase itself. If they took the staircase out of a house the value of the house would be considerably reduced, but that was what the appellants wanted to do in this case.

His Lordship—You would not build a house without a staircase, would you?

Mr. Bowley submitted that the lifts were essential parts of the building and in no sense of the word machinery within the meaning of the Ordinance, that was, machinery used for industrial purposes. It was quite apparent no one could have built this block so high without providing a lift.

His Lordship—There was no lift in the hotel when I came, and I stayed in the top storey.

Mr. Bowley—It was not five storeys high.

His Lordship—It was a good height.

Mr. Bowley, continuing, said the tenants did not pay appellants for the lift but for the premises. They used the lift simply as a means to reach those premises. If they could not get to their rooms they could not occupy them.

His Lordship (smiling)—If they could not get there they could not occupy them.

Mr. Bowley said that with regard to the second point, in assessing the value of these premises the assessor had gone under the latter part of sub-section 5 of section 1, which said "In the case of buildings let to more than one occupier, there may be deducted from the total annual rent of the whole tenement, estimated as aforesaid, a sum not exceeding 20 per cent. of the whole as an allowance for such portions of such buildings as may reasonably be expected to be untenanted from time to time during the ensuing year, and the remainder shall be the rateable value." It had been suggested that the assessor should have assessed the floors separately, but according to the Ordinance the assessor was bound to assess

the building as one whole tenement. As to the state of the building on the 30th June, when the assessment was made, he should prove that the flag was hoisted on the 27th June, and the assessor naturally took that as an indication that the premises were ready for occupation, and the assessor ascertained that the building had been certified as complying with the Building Ordinance on the 28th June.

Mr. A. Chapman, assessor since 1899, said he made an assessment of the building in question on the 30th June. He made a deduction for the top floor, which was not ready. He made no allowance for the lifts.

In answer to Mr. Hastings, witness said he did not rate the value of gas supplied to a building, and possibly he should have made a deduction for the electricity used for the lifts and also for the wages of the attendants.

Mr. Bowley again briefly addressed the court.

Mr. Hastings said Mr. Bowley had admitted that the motor power in connection with the lifts was machinery, but contended that it was not the intention of the Legislature to include this machinery in the Ordinance. He could only submit that the intention of the Legislature must be gathered from its words. The word machinery was used. His Lordship could not go behind that and say what sort of machinery was intended. Although there might not have been lifts in the colony when the Ordinance was passed there were plenty of lifts elsewhere, and if the Legislature had intended to exempt them from the allowance they would have been specified. In his opening Mr. Bowley said that in other cases the assessor rated as if the machinery was not there, and that was exactly the principle he asked his Lordship to apply in this case.

His Lordship said that this was rather a new point, and he should reserve his decision.

August 10th.

LUTGENS, EINSTMANN & CO. V. THE FOO KUT CHEONG FIRM.

In this case plaintiffs claimed the sum of \$189·62 as damages for a breach of contract made between plaintiffs and defendants for the sale of 20 cases of clocks.

Mr. Looker appeared for plaintiffs and Mr. Melbourne, barrister, for defendants.

Mr. Looker said that on the 27th August, 1898, plaintiffs entered into a contract with defendants for the sale of 20 cases of clocks at \$2·95 per piece. One term of the contract was that there was to be a reply within 75 days as to whether the order could be delivered, that defendants should be informed of it, and that on this commission being fulfilled defendants were to take delivery in four or five months. Plaintiffs communicated with their agents in Germany and received a reply that the order could be fulfilled. Plaintiffs told defendants on the 3rd or 4th November that they could fulfill the contract. This was within the 75 days, which expired on the 10th November. The clocks arrived, but defendants refused delivery on the ground that they did not receive notice within the 75 days that the contract could be fulfilled.

Evidence having been called,

Mr. Melbourne said that no notice of the arrival of the goods was given by plaintiff on or before the 10th November, when the time mentioned in the contract expired.

Defendants' manager was called and swore that this was so.

His Lordship gave judgment for defendants with costs.

HOTZ S'JACOB, AND CO. V. THE FOO KUT CHEONG.

In this case the plaintiff firm sought to recover from defendants' firm \$1,600 for breach of contract.

Mr. D'Almada, (Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) appeared for plaintiffs and Mr. Melbourne barrister, for defendants.

Mr. Eglebach, manager for plaintiffs' firm, said that on the 22nd April he contracted to supply defendants with 20 cases of cotton thread—10 cases of dark blue and 10 cases of light blue. These goods arrived in Hongkong on the 27th April. He informed defendants about this one or two days afterwards and asked them to take delivery of the goods. In the middle of May Ho Wei-heng of the Foo Kit Cheong

firm, came to see him and said he should refuse to take delivery because the cotton was not quite right. The goods were subsequently sold by Messrs. Hughes and Hongh by private auction, and there was a loss of over \$1,000, which he had reduced to \$1,000 to bring the case into the Summary Court.

Plaintiffs' compradore also gave evidence.

Mr. Melbourne said the case for the defence was this: Plaintiffs' broker went to defendants' shop and asked him if he would take 20 cases of cotton thread—six cases of dark blue, four of light blue, and ten of white. Defendants agreed to take them at \$3.60 on condition that the dark blue and the light blue were of the same colour as those supplied to him in August of last year. It was subsequently found that the colours were not the same as required, and defendants consequently refused to take them.

His Lordship called attention to the fact that this was not mentioned in the contract.

Mr. Melbourne, continuing, said the colours supplied by plaintiffs in this case were not marketable.

Mr. Leopold Spatz, an expert as to threads, said that he considered the thread which plaintiffs called dark blue was not dark blue at all but steel grey, and it was altogether unmarketable. Then the thread was rotten and would break if put in a needle. He also spoke disparagingly of the light blue.

The further hearing was adjourned.

THE TYPHOON AT FOOCHOW.

MUCH DAMAGE DONE.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE "DAILY PRESS."]

Foochow, 8th August.

A severe typhoon visited Foochow on Saturday and Sunday.

The Foochow Sawmills were wrecked. Much damage was done to house property and craft.

[The above message was delayed in transmission.]

THE FAREWELL ADDRESS TO SIR WILLIAM ROBINSON, K.C.M.G.

The following letter from Sir William Robinson has been forwarded to us for publication.

28 Evelyn Mansions,
6th July, 1899.

F. Henderson, Esq., Honorary Secretary
Address Committee, Hongkong.

Dear Mr. Henderson.—I have to-day received the Address and Album presented to me by the community of Hongkong on the termination of my administration of the Government of the Colony, which was forwarded with your letter of the 25th of May.

I need hardly say that I value them most highly. They will be a most interesting souvenir of my comparatively long and happy residence in a Colony which is every day increasing in prosperity and importance, and in which I shall always take the deepest interest.

With many thanks to you and the Committee.—I am, faithfully yours,

(Sd.) WILLIAM ROBINSON.

A MODEL MEETING OF OUR INSANITARY BOARD.

(CONTRIBUTED.)

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Insanitary Board was held on the afternoon of the 3rd instant. Present, the "P.P.C." M.O., the Hon. Mr. Humming Bee, the Hon. Captain Play, Dr. Lark, Mr. Hose-Burn, etc., and the Secretary.

The "P.P.C." M.O. as President opened the meeting.

The application of Tong La-tong to keep a sucking pig at 14 Tongman's Lane was first discussed.

Mr. Hose-Burn protested against wasting the time of the Board over a sucking pig question when so many human lives were in jeopardy and the plague was still continuing into August.

The President intervened and called Mr. Hose-Burn to order. He said—Pigs are very important animals and we do not lose time in discussing the housing of even a

single "sucking pig." He then traced the history of the pig family from the eocene geological period to recent times, traced the connection with other pachydermata—the elephant, the peccary—dealt with Moses and his law about pig, briefly touched on the question of the Gaddarene swine and the Law of Mahomet as to pigs, then dealt with Chicago and the pork trade, and finally referred with interest to the ham supplied to the third class launch that carried the Utlanders of the Legislative Council to the Taipohu conference.

Mr. Hose-Burn again intervened and said it seemed easier to pass once and for all a single by-law "No pigs, not even a sucking pig, are to be kept in houses or premises within the city of Victoria." This would put an end to all these rubbishy time-wasting applications.

The Board as a whole put down this strange and rash proposal.

Mr. Humming Bee then dwelt on his experience as to pigs.

Dr. Lark spoke on the sucking pig question for about half-an-hour, quoting the English Public Health Act, the Paris Municipal Law, the Buda-Pest Local Regulations, as also those of Saigon, Bangkok, Batavia, and Manila.

In the end permission was granted to keep the sucking pig pending the issue of Mr. Pollock's Sucking Pig Ordinance daily expected to appear.

Mr. Hose-Burn then attempted to raise the question of limewashing of infected houses, which he said had been sadly neglected and was a matter of great sanitary importance.

The President called Mr. Hose-Burn to order and said the next question on the agenda was with reference to an application from a public house called "The den we drink in" for permission to have a waste water sink.

Mr. Hose-Burn here again intervened and begged the Board to think of the 1,200 dead Chinamen and let the "sink" question pass by. He was, however, called to order by the President and threatened with suspension until the end of the sitting.

The Hon. Mr. Humming Bee then dealt fully with the "sink" question and traced the history of sewers from Babylonian times down to the 31st July, 1899. He was, however, much disturbed in his long speech by constant interruptions by Mr. Hose-Burn calling out, "Pigs and sinks and not a word about the dead Chinese" and such like expressions.

Captain Play then dealt with the "sink" question. He said it seemed a small matter, but it involved a great principle. It was only a small lavatory sink which discharged itself into a receptacle, but it was desired to let the waste water flow into the harbour. It was true that in the harbour many thousands of Chinese lived in boats and their waste water and sewage went direct into the water, but this question to-day involved a great principle.

Mr. Hose-Burn, intervening—The only principles of any importance here are sucking pigs and lavatory sinks, absolutely trumpery questions involving waste of precious time.

The "P.P.C.M.O." called him once more to order.

Captain Play then dwelt on the Dublin system of dealing with this "sink" question and traced the history of Dublin sewerage throughout the centuries, but was continually interrupted by Mr. Hose-Burn, who said—We don't want to hear any more about "Dear dirty Dublin." What about Hongkong? that is the real question.

In the end the Board sanctioned the application for the sink provided, it was used with care and that all members of the Police force should have full opportunities of using it, it being essential that the force should have at all times "clean hands."

The "P.P.C." M.O. then said this finished all the matters on to-day's agenda and was about to close the meeting, when Mr. Hose Burn made a most telling speech about the neglect of real sanitary questions and the waste of time over sucking pigs and lavatory water.

The Board, however, declined to take any action and the meeting separated as usual after sanctioning the keeping of the usual "one pig" and the construction of one lavatory sink.

The next meeting of the Insanitary Board will be held on Monday fortnight. Agenda—By-laws for the keeping of canary birds in

Taipingshan, regulations for the cubic space allowed to Siamese cats in hospitals, sanitary by-laws for dogs at the Peak, rules for the inspection of Macassar red fish and anchovies.

Mr. Hose-Burn endeavoured to get the question of the number of sanitary inspectors in Hongkong placed on the agenda, but it was ruled as of no vital importance and struck out.

COAL DISCOVERY IN BRITISH NORTH BORNEO.

Our Sandakan correspondent writes.—

It is reported the Sandakan Bay Coal Fields Co.'s expert, Mr. E. H. Phillips, has discovered a workable coal seam near Tawao, on the edge of Dutch Borneo, but in British North Borneo Territory. Mr. Phillips hopes great things from this find.

THE BRIGANDAGE IN KWANG-TUNG.

Reports continue to be received of the operations of the formidable band of brigands who have made their head-quarters near Saichiu and who are plundering and levying blackmail on the surrounding country. A short time ago a celebrated doctor named Ng Yuen-he was requested to attend a patient in the robber camp. He put his head into the noose and had to pay a squeeze of 200 taels before he was allowed to leave the camp again. Another doctor had a rather different experience. He was sent for one night to attend an urgent case. It was quite dark at the time and the doctor refused to go, but the robbers threatened to shoot him if he did not, and he yielded to their threats and accompanied them to a small boat, in which he was taken to their head-quarters. Here he was well fed and otherwise well treated. On looking round he saw that the reception room contained large quantities of arms and provisions. Having attended his patient he received a fee of \$6 and was allowed to return.

Not only do the brigands attack and rob steam-launches, passage boats, and junks, but they levy blackmail on the rafts bringing bamboo and firewood down the river to Canton. A squeeze of 1,600 taels has been imposed on the firewood guilds and 1,000 taels on the bamboo guilds as payment for immunity from attack. In consequence of this the price of bamboo and fire wood has risen in Canton and the poorer classes feel the hardship of this increase in their daily expenses.

On every village the brigands make a monthly levy of so much according to the size and importance of the place, and well-to-do shops are compelled to pay as much as 400 taels, failure to pay the squeeze being followed by seizure of the owners, who are then held to ransom, or of their cattle if they have any.

ACTION BY THE AUTHORITIES.

A Canton correspondent writes.—With reference to the Saichiu brigands, whose exploits have been frequently mentioned in the papers of late, the Namhoi Magistrate Yeung was sent by the Viceroy on the 8th inst. with three hundred braves to try and break up the band and capture the leaders. He has taken with him a wooden cage in which to place the robber chief for conveyance to Canton, and two executioners with their swords to dispose of the other prisoners. The strength of the robbers is placed at over a thousand and they are well armed with modern rifles. It is generally thought that the Magistrate and his troops are not likely to capture more than a few stray ones and that the brigands are in a position to bid defiance to the Imperial forces.

The dense little copse of bamboo and jungle which formerly concealed from view the military swimming bath close to and on the south of Murray Barracks has now been cleared away, and the pleasant shade given to the road to St. John's Place has suffered a break in consequence. The site is now being cleared for the erection of a new Military Prison. The one at present used, opposite the Officers' Quarters, Murray Barracks, is now the property of the Admiralty, and is needed for the changes impending in the Royal Naval Dockyard of which its site now forms a part.

PIRACY IN CANTON WATERS.

A Canton correspondent sends us the following account of another act of piracy near Canton:—
The steam-launch *Kwong Sou* was proceeding from Koolow to Canton with a passage boat in tow. Shortly after she started a gang of pirates who had skipped all passengers on the passage boat gave the signal; produced revolvers, scared the passengers and crew, and looted the passengers' property. One of the passengers who had several thousand dollars with him dropped the money into the river in the hope of finding it again.

While the piracy was proceeding a steamer named the *Kong On*, which had on board Commandant Suin, of Kochow, and an escort of about twenty soldiers, steamed past. The pirates appeared as if about to attack her. The mandarin was greatly frightened and steamed away as fast as possible. The steamer *Tung Hoi* was met, which escorted the *Kong On* to Canton.

THE PIRACY OF THE "TAIPING."**OFFICIAL ACTION.**

The *Pok Man Po*, a Native paper published at Canton, in its issue of 3rd August has a short article with reference to the piracy of the Portuguese steamer *Taiping* on the West River, in which Mr. Ozorio, the master, was shot. The following is a translation of the article:

"With reference to the piracy committed upon a Portuguese merchant steamer off Sunui, the British Consul has represented the matter to the Viceroy of Canton officially. The Viceroy directed Colonel Mao Wing-tai, in charge of the Garrison of the Sunui district, to come to Canton, and upon his arrival enquired of him the full details of the case and gave him imperative orders that he must find the pirates and recover the stolen property. The Colonel has returned to his post at Sunui and is about to hire a detective to trace out the pirates. Colonel Mao has been in Canton for years and, being well acquainted with the manners and customs of the people, will, it is to be hoped, be able to secure the arrest and conviction of the guilty parties."

It is to be hoped that the real pirates may be found, and no unfortunate beggars or old convicts be hired to impersonate them.

LAWLESSNESS IN KWANGTUNG.**A CHINESE B.A. MURDERED.**

Our readers will remember that during the recent murder trial it was stated on behalf of prisoners that the murdered man, Chan Kwai Shu Tsai, was a bad character and that a reward of \$250 had been offered for his arrest. There is no reason to doubt that such a reward was offered, the explanation of it being as follows: In consequence of the lawlessness which had been rife in the country round about Un Loong a Chinese Admiral was sent down to make enquiries and get to know the names of the bad characters with a view to putting a stop to their depredations. The B.A.s of the different villages were ordered to furnish these names, and as they knew they dare not do otherwise than send in a list—whether the men mentioned were guilty or not—they did as requested. Chan Kwai Shu Tsai was in the list sent in by the Un Loong B.A.; hence the reward for his apprehension.

The B.A. of the village of Wong Kong, which is just outside our new boundary and is on the northern side of river Samochun, also sent in a list, this list including a number of Shatao men. Hearing of this the inhabitants of the Shatao village were very much enraged, and a few days ago some men from the village went to Wong Kong, seized the unfortunate B.A., and put him to death, also wreaking their vengeance in other ways. We understand that the district is still in a disturbed state.

Under the heading "A long time for a short trip" the American (Manila) of the 3rd August says:—Two Englishmen arrived on the coast of Ilocos last Sunday after voyaging 25 days from Hongkong in a little cockle shell of a schooner. From the account received here from Ilocos, it appears that the men intend to engage in trading with the natives along the coast.

THE RECENT HIGHWAY ROBBERIES.**THE PERPETRATOR BELIEVED TO BE FOUND.**

5th August.

The capture of a Chinaman off Queen's road on Tuesday by Mr. Berwick, who learned that he had robbed and assaulted Mrs. Chunnett, is likely to lead to important consequences. He was brought up at the Magistracy on Wednesday morning and remanded for three days for enquiries. These enquiries have resulted in his being identified by Miss May Carroll and Mrs. Fastewsky as their assailants. It will be remembered that on the 29th April Miss Carroll was going along Kennedy Road on her bicycle when she was set upon by three Chinamen who assaulted her and robbed her of a gold bangle of the value of \$15. Mrs. Fastewsky was walking along Lower Richmond Road on the 24th July when a Chinaman assaulted her and stole from her a gold chain, valued at \$45. Prisoner has a peculiar physiognomy which renders him easy of identification. Consequently the ladies mentioned identified him without trouble.

Formal evidence having been given, prisoner was again remanded.

10th August.

At the Magistracy yesterday afternoon the Chinaman who is under arrest in connection with the robberies from Miss May Carroll, Mrs. Fastewsky, and Mrs. Chunnett, was again brought up.

May Carroll said she lived with her parents at No. 6, Caine Road. On the 29th April, about four o'clock in the afternoon, she was out for a bicycle ride with her two little brothers on Kennedy Road. When coming back she met a Chinese lady and she stopped to speak to her, her brothers going on. Soon after she had started again she came across three Chinamen standing on her left side. One of them came forward and stopped her bicycle. He then made a sign to the others and she was dragged to the side of the road. Her mouth was covered up and one of them struck her on the temple with his fist while another pulled off her bracelets. They also tried to pull off her ring, but before they could succeed they heard footsteps coming and ran away. She identified defendant as the man who stopped her bicycle. She picked him out of ten others at the Police Station the other day. She was certain he was the man.

One of complainant's brothers deposed to finding the Chinese shoes produced on the road near his sister after she had been robbed. He had turned back to see where she was.

Chief Detective Inspector Hanson said that on the 29th April last, in consequence of a report made by complainant, he went with her to the spot on Kennedy Road which she pointed out as the place where she had been robbed. It was that part of Kennedy Road immediately above Scandal Point. Having been told that a pair of shoes had been seen on the road after the robbers had gone he made search and found the shoes produced. He brought them to the Police Station. Defendant was arrested on another charge.

Sergeant Collett gave evidence as to complainant picking defendant out of eight men without any hesitation on the morning of the 4th August. The next morning he took the pair of shoes produced to the gaol. He asked defendant to put them on. He did so and in his (witness's) opinion they fitted him.

Inspector Hanna deposed that on the night of the 29th April complainant and her father came to the Central Police Station. She reported that she had been robbed by three men on Kennedy road one of whom she could identify.

A Sergeant Interpreter at the Central Police Station said that when charged defendant said it was correct, and made his mark to it.

There are a number of convictions against defendant and two other charges pending.

Defendant was remanded until Friday.

The *Independencia* states that the properties of the various religious orders in the Philippines are valued at many hundred thousands of dollars. Properties in Hongkong, Malacca, and other ports of Asia purchased by gains and profits derived from the Filipinos are valued at 200 million Mexicanas and the annual rentals are 15 million.

PRESENTATION TO MR. C. W. DUGGAN.

Mr. C. W. Duggan, who has been recently appointed Secretary of the Sanitary Board, was invited to attend at the Central Police Station on the 4th August, for the purpose of receiving from the members of the office staff and the force a souvenir of his long and honourable connection with the force. Among those present were Chief Inspector Mackie and Chief Detective Inspector Hanson.

Chief Inspector MACKIE, in making the presentation, said—Mr. Duggan, we have asked you here this morning for the purpose of presenting you with a small souvenir as a mark of the esteem and regard in which you are held by the office staff and the members of this force. You have been connected with this department for about 30 years. By your integrity and faithful service you rose to the rank of paymaster, a position which you held when you received the well-merited promotion of being appointed Secretary of the Sanitary Board, a position which your local knowledge, your knowledge of the laws of the colony, your knowledge of the language and customs of the Chinese well qualifies you to fill. We congratulate you on your promotion, while at the same time we regret losing your services in the Police Force. Our loss has been the Sanitary Board's gain. We wish you success in your new office, and hope that some day you will retire on a well-merited pension. Allow me to present you with this handsome silver teapot, in the hope that you and Mrs. Duggan and family will long live to enjoy many a cup of tea out of it in old England—(hear, hear)—and that it will remind you of the happy times you spent in the Hongkong Police Force. (Applause.)

Mr. DUGGAN, in acknowledging the gift, said—Mr. Mackie and former brother officers. I may say brother officers, because although not in the same department now I still belong to the same service, and I still have towards you the same feelings I have always felt towards you during the period I have known you. Mr. Mackie has drawn such a flattering picture of my services that it has almost made me blush, but I have during my long period of service in the force ever endeavoured to do my duty first to the Government and next to those with whom I came in contact, whether my superiors, equals, or below me. I sincerely trust I succeeded not only in doing my duty to the Government, but in making myself as pleasant as possible to those with whom I came in contact. Of course I feel that as I get older I get a little bit worse tempered, and to that score must be put down any slight failing I have had in answering sharply or in anyway offending against strict etiquette. ("You have never done so.") I am glad to hear you say that. I must at the same time draw a picture to you of what the Hongkong Police Force was when I joined and what it is now—a picture very much to the advantage of the present force. When I joined the force it was a body of men who tried occasionally to catch thieves. Now it is a well-organised police force. No matter what may be said against it by detractors who know nothing about its working, I consider that it is as efficient a force as you will find this side the Cape of Good Hope. (Hear, hear.) I have seen it through all its varied phases, and it has gone on improving, and I am proud to say that I once belonged to the Hongkong Police Force (hear, hear)—and I am sure you are all proud to say you belong to it. In the name of myself and wife and family, I thank you very warmly for the very handsome present you have seen fit to make me. I assure you that its intrinsic value is far outweighed by the fact that it shows that in my former intercourse with you I have evidently preserved such a course of conduct towards you as has evoked in you feelings of respect. That fact alone is very gratifying to my personal feelings. I again thank you. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

It is probable, the *Singapore Free Press* says, that H.M.S. *Phoenix* will be the ship selected to proceed on the usual annual official visit to the Cocos and Christmas Islands.

NEGLECTING TO EXHIBIT LIGHTS ON A LAUNCH.

Chan Kan, master of the steam launch No. 8K, was brought before Commander Rumsey, at the Harbour Office on Thursday, for having unlawfully neglected to exhibit a green light on the starboard bow and a red light on the port bow of the said steam launch while under way between sunset and sunrise, also that he unlawfully did fail to observe the rules of the road. Lance-Sergeant Burchell said on 6th August he was on duty in the police patrol launch. About 4.20 a.m. when coming from Chinwan, on the east side of Chung Hue, about half-way through the pass, he saw a light about 300 or 400 yards on his starboard bow. The coxswain blew his whistle twice. Witness then saw the defendant's launch about three yards off the police boat. The police launch was stopped, and the defendant's launch struck the police launch before the starboard light. The defendant's launch slid off, and kept on. Witness hailed him, and told him to stop. He did not stop at once, but came back afterwards. Witness saw no side lights as the launch was approaching. There was only a bright light which he took to be the light of a junk. After the collision witness saw the two side lights lying close together on the top of the cabin hatch. They were burning, but had no screens on them. He thought before the collision the lamps must have been screened by something. The coxswain of the Police launch corroborated. The defendant said the other launch had no lights at all. He could not see her. If the other launch had had lights no collision would have taken place. He went astern when he saw the other launch.—Commander Rumsey, in imposing a fine of \$5, explained that the fine was not of so much consequence as his certificate, which would probably be taken from him.—The damage done was very considerable, about \$200 in value.

WATER RETURN.

LEVEL AND STORAGE OF WATER IN RESERVOIRS ON THE 1ST AUGUST.

	1898	1899
Tytam ... 14ft. 1in. below overflow	9ft. 1in. above overflow	
Pokfulam fall	2ft. 8in. below overflow	
Wongneicheong	9ft. 7in. below overflow	
STORAGE GALLONS.		
	1898.	1899.
Tytam	270,130,000	385,520,000
Pokfulam	60,000,000	60,160,000
Wongneicheong approximation only	18,000,000	
Total	336,130,000	463,680,000

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN THE CITY OF VICTORIA AND HILL DISTRICT DURING THE MONTH OF JULY.

	1898	1899
Consumption ...	104,488,000	114,763,000 gals.
Estimated population	196,000	201,500
Consumption per head per day ...	17.1	18.3 gals.

CONSUMPTION OF WATER IN KOWLOON PENINSULA DURING THE MONTH OF JULY.

	1898	1899
Consumption	6,742,000	7,382,000 gals.
Estimated population	25,900	27,100

Consumption per head per day ... 8.3 8.8 gals.
The Government Analyst reports that the water is of excellent quality.

R. D. OREMSEY,
Water Authority.

The Singapore Free Press of the 2nd August say:—H.M.S. *Endymion* is coaling at Tanjong Pagar. She will leave on Friday afternoon or early on Saturday morning after the delivery of the French mail from Europe, to relieve H.M.S. *Orlando* at Manila, the latter proceeding to Hong Kong for some repairs before leaving to join the fleet in the north.

REVIEWS.

China Gou Tales. By Lise BOEHM. Hongkong, etc.: Kelly and Walsh, Limited. 1899. The present volume of Lise Boehm's series contains two tales, Nos. 5 and 6, entitled respectively "Coming Home" and "Peter Wong." The first tale deals with the home coming of a prosperous China merchant assistant to his native town in Scotland. Sandy Gordon, as the hero is called, has risen in the social scale, as have his mother and sisters, and since his departure for the Far East there has been a recasting of their circle of acquaintances. When Sandy arrives home, however, he finds it impossible to throw over all the old friends, especially Jessie Ross, a girl friend of his boyhood's days. But he also runs across a Mrs. Peregrine-Searle, whom he had known as a social star in China before her husband's death and who had amused herself at Sandy's expense when he was a shy and awkward griffin. She was now staying at Sir James Johnson's place, the Baronet being the uncle of her late husband, but the title did not carry with it much pecuniary ease and Mrs. Peregrine Searle would apparently have deemed Sandy Gordon an eligible match. Both Jessie Ross and Mrs. Peregrine-Searle are invited to the party arranged by Sandy's mother and sister to celebrate his home-coming, and the picture drawn of the high stepping widow as she appeared on this occasion affords a good example of Lise Boehm's style:—

"If Mrs. Peregrine-Searle was guilty of an unpardonable breach of Gillonian etiquette in arriving an hour-and-a-half later than she was invited, the splendour of her entrance went a long way towards condoning the crime. She at once took her place as queen of the room, and the Universe, of which Gilltown is the hub, straightway fell down and worshipped her. In her hand she carried a magnificent bouquet, in her hair glittered shining diamond stars and by her side hung a fan of exquisitely carved ivory. She had put off all mourning, and wore a golden-yellow satin brocade, the finest that Shanghai could produce. Possibly her raiment may have cost less than many others in the room. But whereas the worthiest Gilltown matron never seemed to lose the consciousness of her own splendour, never rose above being a clothes-peg, in Mrs. Peregrine-Searle's case the personality of the wearer was never for a moment lost sight of. Her clothes were a part of herself; she created them, not they her."

"But while the people around stared in open-eyed, speechless wonder, the scales suddenly fell from Sandy Gordon's eyes, and the glamour she had been weaving over him melted away for ever. One glance at her had sufficed to bring back a multitude of bitter recollections. Those stars in her hair . . . had meant to one of her old admirers the first step to embayment, forgery, a wrecked career. The fan was the price paid by a miserable husband for a humiliating silence, scarcely kept; the brocade meant the brazen risking of a good name; the golden robes stood for the tortures of jealousy to a young bride. And Sandy, Sandy himself, was he not there? It was a great mistake, Mrs. Peregrine-Searle, to have pinned on that sparkling butterfly! that stood for your hospitality to the young Scotchman; but what had that hospitality been, after all? A debt to be paid off, an experience, the anguish of which could never be wholly forgotten. And he had been such a fool as nearly, very nearly, to run his head into the collar again!"

The second tale "Peter Wong" has its scene in one of the minor Yangtsze ports where the foreign community consists chiefly of missionaries. Peter Wong is a Europeanised convert engaged in mission work and has been promised the hand of Maggie Brown, the daughter of one of the missionaries, who leads a somewhat unhappy life with her stepmother. Upon this little circle intrudes Gregory King, an attractive and shallow hearted man who has been sent to the port as representative of a shipping firm, and poor Peter Wong's matrimonial chances rapidly diminish. The tale leads up to a tragedy, and one that does not strike the reader as overdrawn or improbable, though it is decidedly ghastly. The descriptions of life in a small outport are excellent and characterised by a good deal of humour, as also are the portraits of the Brown

family and the fanatical Dr. Mackenzie. Of the latter we are told that:—

"He was an enthusiast in the most coarse sense of the term, a man of iron will and physique, of boundless influence among the Chinese. As a quack he undoubtedly was, a man as many of the more sober-minded said, but no one denied he was honest, single-hearted and devoted to his work. Whatever he undertook, from building a chapel with his own hands to forcing a nominal Christianity on a whole village, that he accomplished. His feats of endurance or of strength bordered on the miraculous. Naturally, however, this great 'Apostle of Chingchia,' as he was fondly styled by his Mission in England, had great faults as well as great virtues. He could not brook a rival, nor even an equal. And in consequence his fellow-workers were always insignificant, second-rate men, against whom he railed for idleness and fondness of the loaves and fishes, but whom, it must be confessed, he would have hounded out of the Mission had they dared to attempt to follow in his footsteps to a martyr's glory. With an almost childish conceit, he combined an equally childish simplicity, which made him an easy tool in the hands of his more clever Chinese converts. He distracted the Acting Consul, and very nearly drove him to delirium tremens, by taking up the most ridiculous convert squabbles. Thus when a Christian Chinaman, having defrauded his heathen neighbour, was about to suffer punishment at the hands of the authorities, Dr. Mackenzie was the refuge of the distressed convert. And he, as per Treaty, invariably insisted on the wretched representative of Her Majesty before the Taotai and District Magistrates in utterly unlawful endeavours to go against native justice. The doctor was never so supremely happy as when the Consul was suddenly refusing to take up his cases, the Taotai was swearing, and he was writing or telegraphing to the Mission Committee in England to lay such and such a matter before the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs."

The Chinese Drama. By WILFRID STANTON. Hongkong, etc.: Kelly and Walsh, Limited. 1899.

In this little volume Mr. Stanton presents us with three plays and two poems, reprinted with slight alterations from the *China Review*, and an introductory account of Chinese theatrical affairs. We must congratulate Mr. Stanton on his work, which is scholarly without being pedantic and affords the reader a very good introduction to the native drama, a subject of which most residents in the Far East know but little. In the introductory sketch the author tell us:—

"There are about thirty companies in the Canton district, which embraces Hongkong and Macao. Every year, on the first day of the sixth month, they are disbanded, and new combinations are organised in time for the companies to fulfil engagements by the twentieth of the same month. For the year, each company is designated by a name, and is also spoken of as the number such company, according to the rank it holds in the estimation of the organizers and the public.

"There is a great difference in the companies and in the pay they receive. The best earn about thirty-six thousand dollars a year, out of which it has to defray expenses. There are no females included in any of the properly constituted companies; but there are girls trained with boys in the *Tang-tzu pan*, strolling or *Nan-nu-pan*, male and female, troupes.

"A proper company consists of about one hundred persons, and the actors' salaries range from thirty dollars to twelve thousand dollars each per annum. Generally speaking, those who personate female characters are the highest paid. As a rule each actor always takes the same kind of *chiao-se*, or role, as regards age and comparative rank, but as the plays may differ in being of an historical or domestic nature, so the rank of the actors correspondingly differs to suit it. In the programmes of the plays acted, although some of the actors are named as taking such and such roles, there is seldom any mention made as to what personage of the play they represent. The programmes state what *chiao-se* the various actors take, and all theatre goers, although they may not know anything of the play, understand what kind of

them fills the role of a male or female, of a great or humble or old or young person, or of a hero or villain! Probably the nearest approach to this in England is the use of the terms harlequin, clown, and pantaloon, in pantomimes."

The three plays translated give us a fair sample of the pieces represented on the Native stage, and a perusal of Mr. Stanton's book will materially enhance the interest of a subsequent visit to a Chinese theatre.

The Captive of Peking, or A Swallow's Wing.
By CHARLES HANNEN. Fourth Edition.
London : Jarrold and Sons. 1897.

Most Far Eastern readers are probably familiar with Mr. Hannen's tale, which is now in its fourth edition; any who have not yet made acquaintance with it have a treat in store, for it is one of the best tales of adventure that have been published in connection with China. A lounging in Brussels, seated one evening on the verandah after an unusually hot day, is attracted by a little bird that lights almost at his feet. It is a swallow, and attached to its leg is a scrap of paper bearing a message, part of which has been destroyed, but enough remains to show that it is a cry for help from someone held captive in Peking. The finder forthwith sets out to try to discover and rescue the captive. He falls in with Chin-chin-wa, a European who had become naturalised as a Chinaman and a very remarkable character. They pursue the quest together, and at last achieve success, the rescue of the captive being effected under very exciting conditions. Mr. Hannen is well acquainted with China and the Chinese character, and writes in a clear and simple style.

The Queen's Empire. A Pictorial and Descriptive Record Illustrated from Photographs. London, etc. : Cassell & Co., Limited. 1899. (Hongkong : Kelly & Walsh, Limited.)

This handsome volume of pictures is dedicated by special permission to Her Majesty the Queen, and it is well worthy to lie on the royal table. There are 330 plates, most of them full page, the number of pages being 288. It would be impossible to speak too highly of the reproductions, which possess all the clearness of original photographs. The "descriptive record," it may be remarked, consists simply of short and concise notes at the foot of each picture. The whole scheme of the book has been well designed and well carried out, and we can conceive of nothing calculated to give a better idea of the extent and diversity of the wide spreading dominions of the British crown. The pictures are divided into groups as follows: Her Majesty's Mails and Telegraphs; "God Save the Queen!" a record of the Jubilee, 1897; The Education of the Empire; The Trade of the Empire; How the Queen's writ runs, and how the Queen's peace is kept; The Capitals and Chief Cities of the Empire; The Markets of the Empire; Engineering Triumphs of the Empire; Natural Scenery of the Empire; Customs and Ceremonies; of the Empire Places of Historical Interest in the Empire; The Government of the Empire; the Navy, the Army. Hongkong is honoured with four illustrations, namely, "Leaving School," which comes under the educational section and shows us a Chinese school at dismissal time; "Chinese Police," which comes under the heading of "How the Queen's writ runs;" "General view of Hongkong," in the "Capitals and Chief Cities of the Empire" section; and "inaugurating the Queen's Statue," which is included under the heading "Customs and Ceremonies of the Empire." In the footnote to the picture showing the Chinese police a group of half-a-dozen lokongs, we are told that "It was amply proved by General Gordon, when he led 'The Ever-victorious Army,' that the Chinaman, under proper discipline and good leadership, can be transformed into a first-rate fighting man. His good qualities have been taken advantage of by those who have enlisted him in the Hongkong Police Force." The Chinese lokong as a first rate fighting man! Still no doubt he has his weak points. The general view of Hongkong divides a page with Singapore and the footnote is as follows:—

"These two great seaports stand in the very front rank among the commercial cities of the Empire. Singapore, situated on a little island at the narrowest point of the Straits of Malacca, is not only a rendezvous and a port of call for half the shipping of the East but is a strong fortress in the hands of Britain, and an important link in the chain of defence which stretches from Tilbury Fort to Weihsien and Esquimalt.—Hongkong, also an island, is a mercantile port with a trade of over £20,000,000. Like Singapore, it is a strong fortress destined ere long to become still stronger when the defences on the land side, hitherto incomplete, have been put into good order. In 1898 a considerable addition to the British territory around Hongkong was made, as a result of an arrangement by which the Chinese ceded Kowloon Bay."

On this it may be remarked that the annual commercial turnover of Hongkong is generally placed at about three times the amount above stated; also that the recent concession included a great deal more than Kowloon Bay.

The photograph of the inauguration of the Queen's Statue in 1896 occupies a full page and makes a very fine picture indeed. The footnote to it is as follows:—

"The port, city, and harbour of Hongkong furnish a striking example of the power, the energy, and the industry of the British race. Carved out of the great mass of the Chinese Empire Hongkong lives and prospers, is well governed, well administered, and fortunate in the midst of a land in which decay and disaster are the ruling elements. It is well that in this favoured city the inauguration of a memorial to Queen Victoria, in whose name law and order are administered and secured throughout the Empire, should be regarded as the fitting occasion for a solemn ceremonial observance. It is curious in this Eastern land to see the Lions of England, the rampant Lion of Scotland, and the Harp of Ireland displayed, but well it is for those who salute its elevation above the statue of the Queen that they have escaped from the fate which has overtaken the millions to whom the fierce dragon of China is the emblem of authority."

The addition of the author's name would perhaps have lent a little special interest to that outburst.

THE KOWLOON CUSTOMS REPORT.

The following is the Kowloon Customs report for 1898:—

LOCAL.

The year opened with an outbreak of bubonic plague in Hongkong. The first case was reported early in January, and the disease prevailed until the beginning of July. The number of cases reported in the colony was 1,240 Chinese, of which 1,111 died, and 75 non-Chinese, of which 49 were fatal. In the district of Chinese Kowloon the plague made its appearance on 4th March, and there were 385 deaths reported. The most noteworthy event of the year was the agreement, signed on the 9th June, by which China leased to Great Britain, for a period of 99 years, the waters of Deep and Mrs Bays, the territory lying between them, and a number of the islands adjacent to Hongkong, reserving to itself the city of Kowloon only. This expansion of the colonial territory was received with much satisfaction by the colonists of Hongkong, many of whom appeared to derive particular gratification from the prospect of seeing the Stations of the Chinese Customs moved further from the colony. The Honourable J. H. Stewart Lockhart, who was specially deputed for the purpose, proceeded on a tour of the newly leased territory in August, and made his report to the British Government; but up to the close of the year no steps had been taken for effective occupation. The year 1898 will, however, most assuredly inaugurate anew order of things, and it will be appropriate, while reviewing the trade of 1898, probably the last complete year of the old order, to compare it with the opening year of the administration of the Kowloon Customs under the Foreign Inspectorate, which began in April 1887. This comparison, it may be hoped, will remove the impression which seems to exist that the administration of the Customs has been detrimental to the trade of the Colony.

It will be best to take as a basis of comparison the figures of 1889, when the work under the new conditions was fairly established. The total volume of trade for that year was valued in round numbers at Hk. Tls. 32,200,000; that of 1898, though not the best on record, reached the value of Hk. Tls. 45,700,000. This was divided as follows:—

	1889.	1898.
Hk.Tls.	Hk.Tls.	
Foreign goods imported from Hongkong	12,895,000	17,139,000
Native goods imported from Hongkong	3,712,000	3,517,000
Native goods imported from China to China	1,415,000	2,538,000
Native produce exported to Hongkong	14,195,000	22,512,000
Junks inward and outward	46,995	60,429
Revenue: On general cargo	326,286	351,902
Revenue: On Opium	269,817	42,520
Total Revenue	596,083	394,422

The above figures demonstrate sufficiently that the trade has prospered during the 10 years, and a reference to the Special Tables of the Returns will show that, in respect of Exports, the progress has been almost unbroken. It is noteworthy that while in 1889 the Opium Revenue was nearly one-half of the total collection, it was in 1898 little more than one-tenth; but the Revenue on general cargo was considerably greater in 1898 than in 1889. It will also be found on comparing the development of the steamer trade between Hongkong and Canton with the junk trade of Kowloon during the past 10 years, that the latter has progressed in considerably greater proportion. The Kowloon junk trade has undoubtedly fallen away slightly during the year under review but there is little doubt that this decline in due, in a great measure, to the opening of the West River to steam traffic. This may be but a temporary check, for, to judge from the comparison with Canton steam-borne trade, the junk traffic may be able to hold its own, and room be found for both, as trade develops, on the West as well as on the Pearl River. It is early to pronounce an opinion as to the influence on the junk trade of the new inland water steam navigation facilities initiated in June. Towing of junks appears to be the favourite method of applying the steam power, and this should stimulate rather than injure the junk trade. As the regulations at present stand, these facilities do not extend to places outside of Chinese water, and consequently do not immediately affect Hongkong.

There have been several cases of piracy in this district during the year; and an incipient rising of the Triad Society, in the country bordering on the newly leased territory, was nipped in the bud by a military expedition from Canton in October. The war between the United States and Spain, declared on the 23rd April, does not appear to have influenced the Kowloon trade.

REVENUE.

The net decline in the Revenue is Hk. Tls. 127,279. The loss is shown under all heads, with the exception of export ching-fei, which was increased to the extent of Tls. 1,749 by the transfer to the Kowloon Customs of the collectorate on several additional articles formerly farmed to Chinese. The heaviest loss is shown in import ching-fei, and is due to the transfer of the kerosene trade to Foreign bottoms, in order to escape the tsai-li tax and to enjoy the advantage of transit passes. The rate of ching-fei on kerosene was reduced from 10 to 5 cents in February, to check this diversion to other channels, but without any permanent result, though for a time some of the trade was brought back. That the import duty declined by Tls. 33,638 was mainly due to the kerosene which, instead of going to Chantsun and other places direct from Hongkong by junk, when it would pay Duty, was taken in Foreign vessels to Canton, whence it was conveyed to these places under transit pass. The loss of export duty and likin is more than covered by the stoppage of the export of glutinous rice in April, the Native authorities becoming alarmed at the heavy shipments of this cereal abroad, principally to Japan.

FOREIGN TRADE.

Imports.—The value of cotton piece goods imported was about Hk. Tls. 174,000, as compared with about Hk. Tls. 150,000 in 1897 and Hk. Tls. 158,000 in 1889. These figures include Japanese goods to the value of Hk. Tls. 10,200 for 1898 and Hk. Tls. 12,800 for 1897, which indicates a decreasing demand for Japanese fabrics. The Indian yarn import jumped from 33,340 to 118,300 piculs, representing a value of Hk. Tls. 1,880,000—the largest importation on record. Woollen fabrics have declined under all heads, and the value is Hk. Tls. 90,700, against Hk. Tls. 111,100 in 1897 and Hk. Tls. 140,000 in 1889. The demand for this class of goods seems to be weakening year by year in the Canton province. Metals show a surprising evenness in each year's importations, and there is nothing very notable in the list, except an increase in old iron. The import of new yellow metal sheets has declined steadily for years past in favour of old, the importations being now 8,576 piculs and 13,510 piculs respectively. The value of metals (manufactured or unmanufactured) imported during the year was Hk. Tls. 1,160,000, against Hk. Tls. 1,180,000 in 1897 and Hk. Tls. 760,000 in 1889. The trade has therefore made some progress in the 10 years. Of foreign sundries the leading import is rice, of which 3,021,000 piculs, valued at Hk. Tls. 6,646,000, were imported. In 1889 an importation of 3,007,700 piculs was valued at Hk. Tls. 4,512,000, which is a fair measure of the rise in prices during the 10 years. The rice imports vary in inverse ratio with the crops in the two Kwangs. Rice bran (1,607,000 piculs, valued at Hk. Tls. 1,205,000) comes next in order of value. Kerosene oil follows, with a value of Hk. Tls. 1,040,000, representing 7,933,000 gallons. This is a decrease of nearly 1,340,000 gallons on the trade of 1897, but it exceeds that of 1889 by 3,400,000 gallons. While the American oil has held its own in the 10 years, Russian has risen from 631,000 to 2,155,000 gallons, and Sumatra, which first appeared in the Returns in 1895 with 700,000 gallons, has risen to 2,657,000 gallons. The shipments under foreign flag or by steamer to Canton and West River ports, together with the junk shipments from Kowloon, will probably be found to equal, if they do not exceed those of 1897. The import of 51,300 tons of coal valued at Hk. Tls. 359,000 seems unnecessary to a province reported to possess extensive coal-fields of good steam coal. The import in 1889 was only 13,600 tons. Nearly 29,000 piculs of wheat flour presumably from America does not show much advance on the 26,000 piculs shipped in the year 1889. 38,000 piculs salt-petre 22,000 piculs of sandalwood 2,100 piculs of white sharks' fins, 486,000 pieces of stone slabs 28,000 piculs of white sugar and 15,400 pieces of hard-wood timber are other items which contribute largely to the value of the imports. Native Imports from Hongkong contain but few items of importance and are for the most part, produce from other parts of China brought by steamer to Hongkong and reshipped by junk. The most important item, however—dried and salt fish (247,000 piculs, valued at Hk. Tls. 1,384,000)—may be considered a Hongkong product, for most of the fishing boats engaged in the trade hail from the Colony. The value has declined somewhat as compared with 1897, but the figures have not varied greatly during the past 10 years.

Exports.—The exports shown in Table No. V. are all of them to Hongkong. Their value is estimated at Hk. Tls. 22,500,000. This total indicates a fairly steady export trade, and, though exceeded in the three previous years by half a million taels or less it compares very favourably with the Hk. Tls. 14,400,000 which represented the export trade in 1889. The opening of the West River has no doubt handicapped the junk trade, and it is pleasing to note that it has held its own so well in the matter of exports. The class of export which appropriates the largest share of the above total is silk in its various kinds and degrees of manufacture, its total value being returned as Hk. Tls. 5,377,000 the value in 1889 being only Hk. Tls. 2,200,000. The silk piece goods trade of Hk. Tls. 2,800,000 has more than doubled in these 10 years; Refuse silk (Hk. Tls. 983,000) is 12 times greater; em-

broider (Hk. Tls. 219,000) is doubled; fish-lines (Hk. Tls. 37,000) more than five times greater. A large buyer of silk piece goods informs me that, with the present low price of silver, the Canton manufacturers are well able to compete with the products of Japanese and European looms. Though their finish is not so high as the textures woven by modern machinery, they are more durable. The trade might be considerably extended if the manufacturers would take the trouble to have good samples prepared of the different patterns and fabrics their looms can produce, and if they would be careful that the goods when made correspond with the pattern. I am assured that large orders are lost through the failure to have full lines of samples ready to show would-be purchasers when asked for. The item of next importance is the trade in matting, which, from a value of Hk. Tls. 6,000 in 1889, has now reached the respectable figure of Hk. Tls. 1,300,000. This article, and the almost equally important item fire-crackers (valued at Hk. Tls. 1,074,000 also a growing trade), are mostly for the United States, and supply a large portion of the return cargo of the fine sailing vessels trading from that country to Hongkong. Tobacco is another valuable export, 39,000 piculs of prepared tobacco and 17,000 piculs of leaf, worth Hk. Tls. 860,000, having been shipped to Hongkong during the year. The value in 1889 was Hk. Tls. 609,000. The trade in silk clothing has declined in almost inverse ratio with that in cotton clothing, but it is still worth half a million taels. The cassia trade varies greatly from year to year. 1893 shows a fair average trade, of Hk. Tls. 600,000; in 1889 it was only Hk. Tls. 275,000. Chinaware, principally coarse, represents Hk. Tls. 860,000. There has been a steady growth in the export of samshu, which comes chiefly from Shuntak, and is valued for the year at Hk. Tls. 385,000; it is mostly for Hongkong consumption. The export of paper, valued at Hk. Tls. 394,000, is the lowest for many years, and its decline is said to be caused by the dearth of bamboos from which it is made and which, owing to drought, failed to grow with the usual profusion after cutting. Paper is therefore scarce and dear. The brick trade, valued at Hk. Tls. 250,000, is of growing importance to Hongkong, owing to the great amount of building done. The greater number came from the Luen district of Canton. These bricks are of poor quality and do not stand the weather; they are also irregular in size. I am told that there is demand for a better quality of brick, and that the introduction of machinery in the manufacture would stimulate the sale in Hongkong. The timber exports are valued at about Hk. Tls. 300,000, as compared with Hk. Tls. 200,000 in 1889. It seems a pity that the immense area of wild mountainous country which spreads over the southern provinces of China, which must be well suited for the growth of valuable timber, should not be better utilised by planting and systematic Government control of forests. Capital laid out in forestry is slow in bringing a return, though the profits are considerable when they come; it is therefore rather a matter for a Government than for an individual to undertake, the more so as the favourable influence of forests on the rainfall and the rivers of a country make their maintenance almost a national duty. The export of feathers steadily grew for many years until it reached the value of Hk. Tls. 331,000 in 1897. During 1898 it declined to Hk. Tls. 278,000. Shoes and boots of silk and cotton represent a value of Hk. Tls. 540,000, and seem to be a steadily increasing export. The export of tea has declined to a value of Hk. Tls. 800,000, representing 48,000 piculs of black and 2,300 piculs of green, besides dust, stalk, etc. These figures, however, are still more than twice as great as those of 1889. 253,700 piculs of brown sugar and 7,200 piculs of white, valued at Hk. Tls. 950,000, is the best record for many years. Two products—mica and asbestos—are produced at Yang-shan, in the north-west corner of Kwangtung, are manufactured by the Mei Lan Company of Hongkong into a serviceable lagging or non-conducting covering for steamship boilers, which has attracted some attention from marine engineers and shipowners. It has been used with success in several steamers, and from its cheapness—55 cents a square foot—is likely to compete on favourable terms with the other non-conducting compositions in the market.

The Yang-shan hills are reported by the agents of the above company to contain plumbago of inferior quality, silver, lead, iron, and other minerals, besides various kinds of coal; and the principal obstacles to their development appear to be the roughness of the mountain roads and the dangerous rapids of the rivers. The removal of these obstacles is worthy of the attention of the Government. Coal we find represented by the very insignificant quantity of 209 tons; yet it is reported that there is plenty of good coal in the province. Small samples, said to be from the vicinity of Fatsan, have been tried in the blacksmith's forge of the docks, and found very good. It is reported that plenty of this coal goes to Canton, and it may be anticipated that the wise policy of encouragement to mining enterprise now being initiated by the Government will lead to its production in sufficient quantities to at least compete with the coal from other countries in its own markets, if not for export. Samples of good coal have also come to Hongkong from the North River, but it is so badly mined and full of dirt as to lose half its value; an important source of commercial profit and Government revenue is thus lost.

Coastwise Arrivals (i.e., produce exchanged between Chinese ports via the Kowloon Stations).—The value of this trade has risen from Hk. Tls. 1,415,000 in 189 to Hk. Tls. 2,533,000 in 1898, nearly two-thirds of which is contributed by salt, amounting to 3,063,000 piculs, valued at Hk. Tls. 1,65,000. This salt trade has nearly doubled in importance during the past 10 years, and the price of salt has risen from 40 to 55 tael cents a picul. The bulk of the salt comes from the coast north-east of Hongkong. Split bamboos, fish in brine, and packing mats are the other items of importance, which all show a remarkable development during the decade.

Hongkong-Macao Trade via Changchow and Capeui moon.—The following are the comparative values of this trade for the interval of 10 years:—

	Hongkong to Macao.	Macao to Hongkong.
1889	2,934,152	1,575,313
1898	2,858,541	1,479,017

The value of commodities having risen, the decline in the trade is greater than would appear from the above figures.

SHIPPING.

The aggregate number of junks passing into China at all stations was 31,217, of which 6,878 were in ballast. In 1889 there were 23,751, of which 3,931 were in ballast. This shows an increase in the laden junks of 3,519. Passing out there were 30,212, of which 7,441 were in ballast, against 23,244, of which 6,140 were in ballast, in the previous decade, or an increase of 5,667 in the cargo-carrying junks. The junks to and from Macao and Hongkong numbered 1,497 in 1898, against 1,574 in 1889, a decline which may be mainly attributed to the opening of the West River and the increased steamer traffic in that direction, with which a decline in the whole junk traffic passing that way was contemporaneous.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

The figures for the year are the lowest on record. A study of special table No. 11 b will show that the falling off is nearly all at Kowloon, and is due mainly to the suppression of gambling there, which at one time attracted many gamblers from Hongkong, and to improved landing facilities on the British side of the frontier. The traffic to the other stations has been fairly maintained or has slightly increased.

TREASURE.

No treasure of any importance is carried by junks as cargo.

OPUM.

Foreign.—The imports of opium by junk were 386 piculs, as compared with 471 piculs in 1897 and 2,452 piculs in 1889. A considerable quantity has certainly been smuggled from Hongkong, and the use of Native opium has probably gained ground, though but little is known through the Kowloon stations, only 11 piculs being recorded for the year. The importations of Foreign opium into the colony have not declined in the same ratio as those into the Kwangtung province. The total imports for 1898 were 39,892½ chests, while for the year 1899 they were

68,320 piculs. The quantity of opium imported into the whole of China was in 1888 82,612 piculs, and in 1897 49,309 piculs—a decrease of 40 per cent. The imports into Hongkong during the same period show a decrease of 47 per cent., but the average decrease of the Canton, Lappa, and Kowloon districts, which supply the central part of the province, was 54 per cent. The loss at Canton was 58 per cent., and at Kowloon, 84 per cent. At Lappa there has been an increase of 17 per cent. The Lappa office reckons every chest of Patna at 120 piculs, while at Kowloon it has been customary to charge on the exact weight. The merchant gains a slight advantage in the Lappa system, and imports his opium through Lappa in preference to Kowloon. The Chinese dealers in Bengal opium are said to have made handsome profits, owing to the steady rise in the price, though the volume of trade was less. The price of Malwa fluctuated heavily, and the dealers made no profits.

Native.—There is not the least doubt that the use of native opium has greatly extended during the last 10 years. The quality has improved; owing to its lower price it has been found profitable to employ it for adulterating the foreign drug, and the palate of the smoker has gradually become accustomed to its use. From Yunnan and Kweichow it pours into the Canton province by the West River and its tributaries, and the percentages of decline in the imports of foreign opium given above seem to indicate that the competition of the native drug is keener in Kwangtung than in some other provinces. It has, however, been stated to me by a native of great experience in such matters, that the competition of the native drug in this part of China has reached its climax, and that the sale of Indian opium is likely to increase rather than to diminish. The native drug is very much adulterated on its way from the place of production, the price has risen to nearly that of Patna, and the outturn of boiling is somewhat less. The present price of raw Yunnan opium is about Tls. 30 for 100 taels weight, and it produces about 55 per cent. of prepared opium when boiled. Patna costs less than Tls. 32 for the same quantity when raw, and its outturn in boiling is nearer 56 per cent. It is obvious, therefore, that the Indian opium, even at the present high price, should be able to hold its own, more especially in the vicinity of Hongkong, whence it enters China in considerable quantities without payment of duty.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The question has been raised whether China is suffering from a scarcity of silver. I am informed on good authority that money is plentiful in Canton, and has ruled cheap during the last year or so. Silver prices have risen—i.e., the prices of articles as measured in silver have risen. Owing to the depreciation of silver as measured in gold, the Native gets more silver for his exports, which are chiefly to gold-using countries. The same depreciation of the white metal compels the Chinese to pay more silver for what he buys from gold-using countries. Kwangtung is a great consumer of Foreign manufactures, and the increasing exports, especially of silk, enable the Natives to pay this enhanced price more easily.

The net value of the trade for the year is shown below:

Hk. Tls.

Foreign Imports from Hongkong	17,138,751
Native	3,517,012
" " China to China	2,532,737
Exports to Hongkong	22,511,512
Hongkong to Macao	2,858,541
Macao to Hongkong	1,479,097
H. M. HILLIER, Commissioner of Customs. Kowloon, 20th March, 1899.	

THE PLAGUE.

During the week ended 5th August the new cases numbered 29 and the deaths 29, as against 37 and 39 respectively during the previous week. The numbers reported daily during the present week are as follows:—Sunday, 1 case, 1 death; Monday, 11 cases, 10 deaths; Tuesday, 3 cases, 3 deaths; Wednesday, 1 cases, 5 deaths; Thursday, 2 cases, 2 deaths; Friday, 2 cases, 2 deaths.

THE GREAT EASTERN AND CALEDONIAN GOLD MINING CO., LIMITED.

The General Agents of the Great Eastern and Caledonian Gold Mining Co., Limited, Messrs. Lutgens, Einstmann & Co., have received the following report from the mines, written by Mr. Thomas Cash:

The following is the work done in the different mines to above date (1st July).

BANK OF ENGLAND MINE.

No. 1 stope over the main level in now 94 feet along the reef. No. 2 stope 22 feet. No. 3 14 feet, and No. 4 8 feet. The reef all through will average about 15 inches wide and should yield when crushed about one ounce per ton. The main drive North is now in 64 feet; the reef in the face is about 6 inches wide and carries very rich looking mineral and about 5 dwts. of gold per ton. At 60 feet this reef went out to almost thread of stone, and only a trace of gold, and as the prospects have improved so much and the main wall is much more defined I would advise you to extend the drive say another 20 feet.

RISE AND SHINE MINE.

The drive to connect the main shaft with the winze 27 feet North has been completed and securely timbered. The underhand stoping can now be carried on with very little dead work. The first stope north from main shaft has been taken along the reef 12 feet by a depth of 7 feet. At present the reef will average 15 or 18 inches wide and should yield 25 dwts per ton. I like the prospect of this mine very much, and think the reef will be quite 2 or 3 feet wide when we get into settled country. Just now the reef is greatly knocked about by faults in the rock.

ZULU MINE.

All repairs to the timber in the main level have been completed and underhand stoping is now being carried on. South of the main shaft the stopes have been taken along the reef 14 feet by a depth of 5 feet. The reef is 18 inches wide and should yield from 25 to 30 dwts. per ton. I am unable to say very much about this reef at present as it will take about a month to prove the length of the chute of stone north and south.

CALEDONIAN MINES.

The old main underlie shaft has been retimbered to the bottom level, also a new bucket and ladder way put in the whole depth. After some few repairs to be done in the old workings, which will take, I think, about a week, we can then start to sink the air shaft to connect with the new main shaft. There is a great quantity of stone in sight north of the old main underlie shaft, and when it is driven on and opened up I feel sure it will more than pay for breaking, as the expense to get it to the battery will be very small. This has been a very good mine in former days and I think when it is developed it will prove a very sound property.

THE SHANGHAI FEATHER CLEANING CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the third ordinary meeting, held at the office of the General Manager, Shanghai, on Wednesday, the 9th August:—

The General Manager submits a statement of accounts to the 30th June, 1899.

The profit and loss account attached shows a debit balance of Tls. 59,254.73.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Messrs. G. Galles and E. Karbe having left Shanghai, Count A. von Butler and Mr. H. Lehmann have joined the Board, their election requiring the confirmation of the shareholders.

AUDITOR.

The accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Ellert.

LIQUIDATION.

A proposal will be submitted by the Board of Directors to liquidate the Company.

PHILIPP ARNHOLD, General Manager.

LIABILITIES	Tls. cts.
300 shares fully paid up	150,000.00
Sundry creditors	93,568.05

Tls. 243,568.05

ASSETS	Tls. cts.
Buildings	66,389.56
Machinery	68,322.19
Launch	1,650.00
Furniture	1,757.57
Inventory	770.97
Coal	320.00
Factory stores	2,121.60
Unexpired fire insurance	572.23
Sundry debtors	135.10
Stock of feathers in Shanghai	126,567.12
Stock of consignments in Europe	1,000.00
Less advances	85,293.02
	41,274.10
Profit and loss account	
Balance of working account	10,519.60
Loss on consignments	48,735.13
	59,254.73
	Tls. 243,568.05

THE CHARBONNAGES CO.

Mr. E. Georg, in his weekly share list dated 5th August gives the following particulars with reference to Charbonnages:—The report for 1898 has been issued and passed at the meeting held in Paris on 8th June 1899. I find from same, that the total production of coal during 1898 has been 204,024 tons, against 127,713 tons in 1897. During 1898 the sales amounted to 214,935 tons against 143,399 tons of coal in 1897; this amount includes 24,141 tons employed for making briquettes at Hongay, and 3,500 tons used for the various services of the Company. Of briquettes, 29,456 tons have been manufactured in Hongay, and 20,036 tons in Kowloon (Hongkong); the sales amounted to 42,606 tons, leaving a stock of 8,424 tons on 31st December 1898. As the working of the Kowloon Briquettes factory left a loss of \$12,289.44, it has been decided to suspend the working at the factory for the present. At the extraordinary meeting of shareholders, held in Paris on 4th May 1898, it was decided to write down the value of shares from frs. 500 to frs. 250, and to issue another frs. 1,000,000 in shares of same value. This has since been effected, and the amount of frs. 3,000,000 written off from the value of the Mines, Machinery, Buildings, Old Profit and Loss Account, and various other items. The Profit and Loss Account for 1898 shows a credit Balance of frs. 42,398.39, of which 5 per cent. or frs. 21,119.92 have been placed to legal reserve fund, and frs. 491,278.47 carried forward to new account. The Company has Debentures outstanding to the amount of frs. 5,000,000.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

BEST SCORE POOL FOR JULY.

Conditions for this monthly pool have been altered to a competition against "Bogey," 18 holes. Whether the hot weather or other attractions were the cause, the entries were only six in number.

Mr. C. Palmer ... 9 down rec. 7 strokes
Mr. C. A. Tomes ... 11 " " 8
Bogey's card for each round, 5.4.5.4.3.5.5.4.5
—40.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR AUGUST.

All things considered the entries were fairly good, the winner of the cup returning a fine first round: 5.4.4.4.3.4.6.3.6.39.

CAPTAIN'S CUP.			
Mr. C. M. S. Burnie	85	6	79
Mr. W. Taylor	100	12	88
Mr. C. W. May	95	6	89
Mr. H. Pinckney	99	10	89
Mr. C. Palmer	98	8	90
Comdr. Davison, R.N.	106	14	92
Mr. P. de C. Morris	101	8	93
Mr. W. J. Gresson	118	16	102
Mr. C. W. Dickson	119	16	103
20 entries			
POOL.			
Mr. W. Taylor	99	12	87
Mr. C. W. May	95	6	89
Mr. C. Palmer	98	8	90
Mr. P. de C. Morris	101	8	93
15 entries.			

AN ALLIANCE BETWEEN CHINA AND JAPAN.

The report that a secret treaty has actually been concluded between China and Japan may be premature, but there is every reason to believe that the two countries, if the treaty has not already been signed, are negotiating the conditions of a defensive alliance. The rumoured terms of this alliance are quite plausible, and we shall not be surprised to hear that they are substantially correct. That Japan should engage to defend Chékiang and Fukien from foreign aggression, in exchange for the monopoly of exploiting mines and building railways in the two provinces, is just what we should expect from a country not yet emerged from the imitative phase. The idea is so entirely lacking in originality and so far removed from practical politics that it appeals to us as exactly the kind of proposal Japan would be likely to put forward. And the Government of China, which acts like a hen escaping from an advancing vehicle, running first to one side and then to the other in complete bewilderment, need not be supposed to have considered whether such an arrangement is the wisest and best. We do not wish to minimise the wonderful advance Japan has made as a military Power, nor do we desire to ignore the strength and efficiency of her fleet; but we do not believe that Western Powers will consent to be dictated to by the *Parvenue* nation which was so easily persuaded to resign Port Arthur, or that any serious designs upon the two provinces, should such exist, will be checked by Japanese frowns. As to the exploitations of mines and the building of railways, we should be glad to know where Japan is to find the capital. Her finances are not in an altogether satisfactory condition, as evidenced by the difficulty encountered in floating the late loan, and we are not aware that the progress made in the development of Formosa has been such as to encourage sanguine expectations in her new sphere of influence. If Chékiang and Fukien are to wait for Japanese capital and enterprise before mines are opened and railways built, they are likely to remain in their present benighted condition for many years to come.

The next provision is that Japan should undertake the training of the Chinese armies and navy, in consideration of which Japan should return the fleet of obsolete vessels captured at Weihsienwei. This again is an extremely plausible agreement. The same threatening cloud overhangs the two countries, and it would appear sound policy to unite in self-defence. Could Japan make the armies and navy of China as efficient as her own, the whole aspect of Far Eastern politics would be changed, and the spectre of the Yellow Peril might actually materialise. The possibility is, however, remote. The Chinese not only hate but despise the Japanese, and are not altogether without justification for their sentiment towards what they consider the inferior race, and only by the strictest discipline—by force, in fact—could Chinese be made subservient to Japanese officers. It would be useless to engage Japanese instructors and advisers, without executive power. We are not of those who believe that where Europeans have failed Japanese will succeed, and it has been the refusal of executive authority to foreign instructors which has hitherto rendered nugatory all attempts at reform. Does anyone suppose that the Chinese will consent to invest Japanese officers with control over finances and discipline? to give them, in fact and not in pretence, the actual command of the military forces of the country. That the Chinese are excellent material is recognised; but the best material is ruined and wasted by unskilful workmen pursuing inferior methods with bad tools. Chinese officers, ignorant of their profession and with no ambition beyond filling their pockets and escaping work, will continue to ruin their men in spite of the most enthusiastic instructors. The question of finance will probably wreck the scheme more certainly than even the natural jealousy which will be opposed to alien authority, and unless the troops are properly equipped and regularly paid—that is unless the funds are honestly administered—there will be no fundamental improvement in the Chinese forces. We have no doubt that Japanese officers would be an improvement on Chinese in this respect, but we cannot bring

ourselves to believe that the Chinese Government would support them against the dishonesty of its own officials. They would be thwarted and oppose in every possible way, and the men would be secretly encouraged in every act of insubordination against their hated officers. We think it more likely that the Japanese would be demoralised by the Chinese, than that they should raise the tone of the latter.

We admit that the idea is excellent in theory, but we believe it is doomed to failure. *The Peking and Tientsin Times* takes the opposite view and believes that Japan is fully competent to take the work in hand. Assuming this to be the case and that Japan is destined to succeed in thoroughly reorganising the Chinese forces, we cannot agree with our Northern contemporary that there is very good reason why we should wish the report of the secret treaty to be true. Regard for international law and an intelligent appreciation of the economies of commerce have not even in Europe reached so high a standard as to prevent avoidable complications; and the prospect of enormous and efficient armies of yellow men, unhampered by traditions of international morality, Geneva conventions, Hague conferences, and so forth, with a mission to conquer and plunder the whole of Asia and drive away the Western barbarians, is not comfortable. Successful opposition to aggression would rapidly develop ambition for conquest, and the Japanese would be irresistibly tempted along the easier path of persuading their ignorant ally to use the new weapon to expel the foreigner and hamper trade, rather than to police the country and assist advance in the gentle arts of peace. However, although we believe the secret treaty is or will be a fact, we do not imagine it will have any practical effect on the situation, except to make the Chinese rather more pigheaded and suicidal than they are now.—*N. C. Daily News*.

THE EMPRESS-DOWAGER'S LETTER TO THE MIKADO.

A contributor to the *Shanghai Mercury* gives the following as the substance of the letter recently sent by the Empress-Dowager to the Emperor of Japan by Her emissaries Liu and Cheng:

The letter thanked her good cousin for his good wishes. The writer was, however, in great difficulties; the European Powers regardless of the Tientsin were pressing for a partition of the Empire. England, France, Germany, and last of all Italy, had presented demands and the Empress did not know what to do to satisfy these greedy dogs. England was the worst of all, for she had not disengaged her longings for the Yangtze Valley, and had even set on Italy to claim Fukien. But she had done more, she had attempted to frustrate her (the Empress) relations with Russia, and had openly protested against her advancing her railways in North China. Such indignities were insufferable and she had therefore addressed herself to her good friend the Emperor of Japan, for succour in her distress. The greatest danger in the future was the advance of England. England had lately, contrary to her orders, annexed a portion of Kwangtung and is now proceeding to lay her plans in Kiangnan. She had given orders to her Viceroys to resist the encroachments of this most dangerous enemy, but they had stated that for want of ships they were unable to act, and that even with the return of the Peiyang fleet England would be in a position of superiority. She therefore appealed confidently to her very good friend and neighbour to assist her, etc., etc. Promises of subsidies, of appointing Japanese to command the fleet and armies, of freedom of trade to Japanese ships and merchants accompanied this precious epistle, and finally Japan was invited to enter into an alliance offensive and defensive to get rid of these dangerous enemies. Such we have every reason to believe is the bait which has been offered to Japan to enlist her in the Empress-Dowager's service.

It is notified in the *Gazette* that after the 10th inst. no registered covers will be received at the Post Office unless the same shall bear on the left-hand lower corner thereof the name and address of the sender.

THE SECRET COMMISSIONERS TO JAPAN IN DISGRACE.

The *N. C. Daily News* publishes the following special telegram from its Native correspondents at Peking, dated 30th July:

Word has recently reached this from Japan that, instead of being secret in their conduct, the importance of the occasion demanded, the Empress Dowager's Secret Commissioners, Liu and Ch'ing, have been guilty of grave indiscretion and have flaunted abroad their importance even to openly showing the Empress Dowager's autograph letter, meant for the eyes of the Mikado alone; in order, it is supposed, to get a recognition from the Japanese, while en route, of the high importance of their Mission. Then five days ago the Tsungli Yamen received a telegram from the Japanese Government complaining of the doubtful character of the two commissioners and refusing to treat with such men on grave matters of State in connection with the two Governments. The Empress Dowager is extremely indignant at the conduct of her protégés and has ordered their return by telegraphic decree. It is further known now that, although Liu and Ch'ing had several interviews with the Japanese Foreign Minister, they have not yet had audience of the Mikado. Liu and Ch'ing are also protégés of Prince Ch'ing who backed up the eunuch in recommending them to the Empress Dowager. The fiasco of the Secret Mission, it is believed, will cause grave complications all round.

THE "WOODCOCK."

When Her Majesty's river gunboat *Woodcock*, was put together in Shanghai, having been brought from the old country in sections, there were not a few steamboat experts in Shanghai, who scouted the idea of such a cockle-shell being able to negotiate the Yangtze rapids. It is now three months ago since the *Woodcock* arrived at Ichang, and we are informed, on the most reliable authority, that the vessel altogether failed to ascend the rapids. The first rapid, just beyond Ichang, and a very small one, was safely negotiated, but it was found impossible to take the vessel further. Her engineer has reported that the vessel's speed will have to be nearer 19 knots, per hour, than 14, to successfully accomplish the task and consequently the vessel will have to be left on the lower reaches of the Yangtze or "tracked" by coolies through the gorges. Why the Admiralty allowed such a monstrosity as the *Woodcock* to be constructed is beyond comprehension, but her peculiar shape was thought to be specially adapted for the proposed work. Her dismal failure, however, proves incompetency on somebody's part and it will be interesting to hear the explanation of the first Lord of the Admiralty when some member asks a question about this land bird which attempted aquatic duties.—*Shanghai Daily Press*.

COAL AND GOLD MINING AT WEIHAIWEI.

Shanghai, 1st August.

Particulars are to hand of the formation of a powerful syndicate which has obtained a concession to mine for coal in the vicinity of Weihsienwei, and it is gratifying to note that the working thereof is confined to British pocket holders. The amount of the capital is not specified, but is said to be of considerable magnitude. The Directors, as at present notified, are Messrs. E. Jenner Hogg (chairman of the Shanghai Gas Company), Chairman Mr. J. R. Twentyman (Messrs. S. C. Farnham and Co., Ltd.), Mr. Brodie Clarke (Messrs. Hopkins, Dunn & Co.), Mr. H. O'Shea (*China Gazette*), and Mr. J. Welch (Messrs. Welch Lewis and Co.). Mr. F. Lavers has been appointed secretary pro tem; and Mr. Jurgens will be the chief engineer. The subscription list includes the names of Messrs. Wade Gardner, E. B. Skottowe, J. C. Bois, J. Prentiss, J. H. Osborne, and many others. Messrs. Jurgens and O'Shea are the vendors.

2nd August.

We have been informed that a difficulty has cropped up with regard to the rights held by

the Weihaiwei coal mining syndicate, the formation of which was explained in our issue yesterday. It would appear that there is another Richmond in the field in the shape of a gold mining syndicate who claim certain mineral rights over the territory and intend applying for an injunction to restrain the other concern from working in the vicinity of Weihaiwei.—*Shanghai Daily Press.*

CATCHING AND TINNING RICE-BIRDS.

Mr. Alec. W. Cross, Acting Commissioner of Customs at Samahui, in his report for 1898 gives the following interesting account of the rice-bird industry at that port:—

An interesting occupation carried on in Siamnam is the tinning of rice-birds, soles, and game in a limited quantity. This lucrative business was started seven years ago, and in 1898 there were 10 shops engaged in it, mostly run by men who have been in the United States and who have learnt the business of canning there. The rice-bird season is short, beginning in the middle of the 8th moon and lasting about six weeks. The birds are caught at night. A reed patch on the bank of the river or a creek is rented for the season. After dark a big net, 120 feet long and 15 feet high, is strung across the reeds, which are 8 to 10 feet high. A rope is then dragged slowly through towards the open net. The birds can be heard twittering and flying from stalk to stalk before the advancing rope. Near the net the rope is given a sharp jerk, the haulers yell, and the men holding the net up on bamboo poles immediately close the bag. An average catch is 200 birds, an extremely good haul 1,000, while the whole night's take is usually 5,000. These are sold for 2 cents each, the price depending on the harvest. After being plucked and cleaned, they are fried in pork fat for half an hour, put into tins of a dozen each, which are then filled with boiling lard, soldered, and boiled in water for an hour or so. The tins are packed in boxes of 4 dozen, and shipped to Hongkong, where they are retailed at from 35 to 40 cents a tin. In a good year as many as 700,000 are canned, whereas in an ordinary season the supply is only about 300,000. There is a curious legend concerning these birds, which appears to find general credence, even amongst the educated classes, and is to the effect that a species of "yellow fish" leave the sea during the 8th moon, when the grains of rice are in the tender stage, transform themselves into birds, and feed on the paddy. After the rice has been harvested the birds disappear, but it is not known what becomes of them—many believing that they die, being unable to procure food. Quails are also preserved, but only in limited quantities, as they are not plentiful in the district. Three birds go to a tin. Soles are caught in the North River (none are found in the West River), treated the same way as rice-birds, and weighed into tins of ½ lb. each. The annual output at present amounts to 400 dozen tins, which are sold in Hongkong for 40 cents each.

THE BANK OF CHINA CASE AND THE CHINESE JUDGE.

Shanghai, 31st July.

The disgraceful conduct of the Chinese Government in reference to native shareholders and their unpaid calls to the Bank of China, Japan and the Straits Limited has been relieved by the saving grace of humour. In our last issue we referred to the fact that the Taotai Shun Tun-ho, who had been delegated by the Nanking Viceroy to re-hear the case to-morrow, along with the British Consul-General, Mr. Psalham Warren, was himself under a cloud, having been already denounced for his maladministration of affairs at Woosung when he was in charge of the defence works at that place. But we had no idea that things were going so badly with poor old Shun, who, from a Chinese point of view, has not been such a bad specimen of mandarin after all; but to-day we learn that the re-hearing of the case has been postponed indefinitely because the Judge who was to try

it has been himself condemned upon a secret memorial, forwarded by the redoubtable Kang Yi to the throne, for malversation of funds and treacherous conduct while in charge to affairs at Woosung. He has accordingly left Shanghai in hot haste for Nanking, and the rehearing of the case has been adjourned *sine die*. It is reported that Kang Yi has denounced Shun as a traitor for bringing the Germans into the Woosung forts! and that he has been banished to the post roads of Mongolia. As an illustration of the humours of the bench this story is probably unparalleled. It will be interesting to know what class of man will finally dispose of the Bank of China case, considering that the former judge, Tsai, and the judge that was to be to-morrow have been both condemned unheard for peccadilloes alleged by their enemies. The announcement has created great consternation among the native mandarins.—*China Gazette.*

FOOCHOW NOTES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT].

In the *Chronicle and Directory* it is stated that the climate of Foochow is mild and delightful for about nine months of the year, but in summer it is rather trying. A refuge from the heat of summer can, however, be gained by a three hours' chair ride to the top of Kuliang. All this is very true. Kuliang is, especially in the morning and evening, a cool and delightful spot, but—Besides seeking cool breezes the average taipan seeks quiet. What with heat and flies and noisome smells and brazen lunged beggars and one thing and another from which he has just escaped, he expects at Kuliang to be able to lie back and enjoy a quiet smoke and a chat without having to trouble himself about "Oh what must it be to be there" and so forth. Just in the same way as in Amoy, where the missionaries would have their hospital on Kulangsu, so at Kuliang they will indulge in psalm singing, masken any body or the swears they swear. The man responsible for the following ad. must have said a good many before his patience gave way:—"Wanted, a house at Kuliang for August and September. Rent no object, but must be out of earshot of missionary dwellings as perfect rest and quietude is necessary. Apply, etc."

The following little episode is interesting as illustrating one phase of life in the *Gorgeous Fast*. Early in the afternoon a few days ago a coolie ran up quickly to another coolie in uniform standing in all his glory before the door of his master's godown and pulling him smartly and unceremoniously aside, slipped in through the door and locked it. Sir Yellow-plush was just getting himself worked up into a furious tear when things developed a bit. First came a coolie running with what appeared to be a big Chinaman's hat in his hand. This turned out to be a shield made of stout wicker-work on the gentleman's arm, and in his hand he carried a sword. Close behind him came a few others similarly provided, then three men carrying bundles of bamboo about 8 feet long, each with a large knife fastened at the end, and then two excited savages armed with muskets dating from before Waterloo. Much loud talking was indulged in, the knives on the bamboos were thrust in through the stoutly barred windows of the hong, and one gentleman discharged his musket at the sun and ceremoniously and dramatically cast about to reload. By and bye some of the Chinese inside obtained a hearing and the besiegers consented to parley and soon after melted away, and all was as quiet again as after Roderick Dhu had made his signal to his merry men in the Highland defile. Upon enquiry it was found that the men employed matting tea boxes were partly natives and partly Cantonese. One of the Cantonese had put a cup of tea aside to cool and one of the Foochow men had drunk it, the murderous demonstration described above was the result, and it was only after the most abject apology had been made that the Cantonese allowed the matter to drop. It is true the weapons brought out were from a military point of view, contemptible, but they were evidently well cared for, and even a fifty year old sword is an awkward thing for a totally unarmed man to come into sudden and violent collision with, and the fact that there are such

weapons kept ready for instant use, or abuse, in the principal street of the European quarter of a Treaty Port without anyone being called to account is significant.

The question naturally occurs, where are the police? The reader, gentle or otherwise, must suppose not Foochow is such a benighted place as to be without a police force. Some eighteen months ago several of the Consuls were going home. Whether they thought it would lend dignity and importance to their departure if they were accompanied to the wharf by a lot of uniformed police or not deponent saith not, but certain it is that the Consular Body caught a dozen or two coolies, provided them with a more or less magnificent uniform, and called them policemen, and when the departing consuls went to the wharf these men went too. Some people might not think it particularly dignified to be attended by a gang of men looking like monkeys just deserted from barrel organs, but there is no accounting for taste, as the old woman said on that memorable occasion when she kissed the cow. Except on these red letter days, where are the police? is a question hard indeed to answer. Of what use are they? would be a still harder question.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG-NGOI-SAN-PO."]

The robbers under the leaders Fo Tsau Hoi, An San, etc., in Saichin mountain have become more formidable and their numbers have been greatly increased, bad characters having come from all districts to join them. It is reported that at every meal there are over three hundred tables each accommodating ten robbers, and about one hundred cooks are employed. They go to different markets to buy food, which is reasonably paid for. They are not to commit robberies on ordinary people, but to blackmail the shops, junks, and the well-to-do families. Some shops, being unable to pay the heavy blackmail, have been closed, and many junks conveying native products from different places to Canton for sale have been also obliged to discontinue the traffic. Some European firms have been disappointed on account of the non-delivery of raw silk ordered by them from various places in the neighbourhood of Saichin, which is the centre of silk manufacture. The Namhoi Magistrate has gone there in person with one-hundred yamen runners to cope with the robbers and Colonel Cheng and Colonel Kwan have also been sent there by the Viceroy with two hundred and three hundred Canton soldiers respectively, but as the force of the robbers is so great, the Namhoi Magistrate asked the Viceroy for reinforcements, in reply to which one thousand Hunan soldiers were recently sent, together with several gunboats. After the arrival of the soldiers on the scene, the robbers retired into the fastness of the mountains and do not come out to meet the soldiers, who also dare not break into the mountain to root them out, for the robbers have guarded all the passes with big guns. It is said that the robbers have in their possession a good store of various kinds of provisions and they are able to issue forth to get food from the other sides of the mountain. Seventeen arrests have been made on suspicion, most of the prisoners being Lukongs and hawkers. Ten of them have been released after trial at the request of some gentry and the remainder are still imprisoned pending further enquiries.

Some gentry of Kwangsi have sent a petition to the Viceroy asking him to send soldiers for the defence of Waichap, in Kwangsi, for the robbers there, as lately reported, are getting worse and worse and a rebellion is likely to break out again if the authorities take no notice of them. The Viceroy replied that he has asked the local Magistrate of Waichap to report upon the matter.

The Viceroy has sent General Liu Yung-fu to enlist ten thousand soldiers to be sent for the protection of the sourthern districts. One thousand are required to be enlisted in all haste.

Some days ago a junk running between Fatshan and Lopau was attacked midway by pirates coming in long boats. The junk-master, being

greatly frightened, dared not offer any resistance, but there were on board five soldiers who insisted upon defending the junk to the last, firing at the pirates, who returned the compliment. Soon the ammunition of the soldiers was exhausted and the pirates succeeded in boarding the junk, but the soldiers, whose bravery did not fail them, drew out their swords and fought desperately with the pirates, succeeding in killing two of them and driving the rest away. One of the soldiers got hold of a pirate during the struggle and fell overboard, both being drowned. Two of the soldiers were killed and the other two seriously wounded. The bravery of the soldiers was reported to the authorities, who have rewarded the two survivors and amply compensated the families of the deceased, who also received a substantial sum subscribed by the passengers and the junk-master.

HONGKONG.

There were 1,783 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, 184 of whom were Europeans. At the Magistracy on Thursday two Chinese doctors were each fined \$20 for not reporting plague cases. Inspector Brett prosecuted on behalf of the Sanitary Board.

At the Magistracy on 4th August six Chinamen were charged with committing an armed robbery at Castle Peak Bay on the 25th ult. It seems that they attacked a boat which was lying at anchor and assaulted the occupant, one of them beating him with a rattan and another hitting him on the head with the blunt edge of a dagger. They stole the man's anchor and other things and then made off. The further hearing was adjourned.

A Chinese liftman at Queen's Buildings was killed as the result of an accident on Sunday morning. The lift had been sent down the hoist empty when deceased, who was on the ground floor along with another man, lift tried to lower it about two feet. He, however, got hold of the wrong rope and the lift began to ascend. In attempting to jump into it he fell on to the floor of the lift and being carried up his head was crushed between the doorway and the lift and he was killed instantaneously.

Two chair coolies were each fined \$5 by Mr. Gompertz at the Magistracy on Monday for demanding more than their legal fare. It appeared that on Saturday night Mr. Wilhelm Pucker engaged a chair at the Tram Station to carry him up Garden road, a distance of a hundred yards. On his paying them each 15 cents they began to make a noise and demanded more, whereupon Mr. Pucker took back the money, paid the legal fare of 10 cents, and gave the coolies into custody.

Mr. Looker, solicitor, made an unusual request to Mr. Justice Wise at the Supreme Court on Thursday morning. He interrupted a case and asked his Lordship's permission to dispense with his gown as it was full of parasites. He added that he had found several himself, and his attention had since been called to several.—His Lordship: You can get another.—Mr. Looker: They are all in the same box.—His Lordship: You have not got a black coat on. Mr. Jones will let you have one.—Mr. Looker left the Court and returned wearing a black coat. He observed: I am much obliged to your Lordship.—His Lordship: I hope you are more comfortable.—Mr. Looker: Yes, I think I shall be.

A gallant rescue from drowning was effected in the harbour on Sunday morning by Mr. L. F. Hussey, second officer of the s.s. *Chu-sang*. A Chinaman who had been doing some work on the vessel fell overboard. He had gone down twice before the Europeans aboard were informed of what had occurred. Seeing that there was no time to lose Mr. Hussey, without divesting himself of his clothing, jumped into the water. He had to dive down close on twelve feet to get at the Chinaman, when he caught him by the queue and brought him to the surface. The Chinaman had all but gone, some time elapsing before he could be brought back to consciousness. Mr. Hussey was also very much exhausted, but soon recovered, and was warmly congratulated by his brother officers for his courageous deed.

On the evening of the 3rd August a Chinaman was knocked down in Wanchai Road by three other men and robbed of \$120.

The only cases of communicable disease report last week, in addition of plague, were two cases of enteric fever one of which occurred in the harbour.

His Excellency the Governor proceeded to Kowloon on the 4th August to meet a number of Chinese elders and gentry to whom the management of local offices has been entrusted.

The appointment of Dr. Lowson to be Acting Medical Officer of Health and Acting Sanitary Superintendent during the absence of Dr. Clark is gazetted.

The Hongkong Electric Company proposes to double its capital by the issue of 30,000 new shares of \$10 each, the issue to be made at par and the new shares to be offered in the first instance to the holders of the existing shares.

At about half-past three on Tuesday morning a fire was discovered to have broken out in a drug shop at 65, Queen's Road West. The Fire Brigade, in charge of Inspector Robertson, was soon on the spot, and after about an hour's work managed to put out the flames, though not before the shop had been burned out. The shop being at a corner there was less difficulty in preventing the fire from spreading than there would otherwise have been.

Perhaps the most pressing want which has been felt in Hongkong for some time has been the provision at reasonable rates of suitable accommodation not only for visitors to the colony but for residents who are not householders. It is peculiarly gratifying, therefore, for us to be able to announce the opening of the Waverley Hotel in Icehouse lane, for which the Justices of the Peace so readily granted an adjunct license the other week. An adjunct license, by the way, does not carry with it a bar but is merely intended for the convenience of those who for the time being reside on the premises. Mrs. C. A. Brenner is the manager, and judging from her high recommendations to the Justices of the Peace she should be in every way qualified to fill the post. The letting rooms are 14 in number, and are all beautifully furnished and pleasantly situated. They are all large and airy and provided with fine verandahs. Of course the prices for the different rooms vary, depending upon the floor, but full particulars on this point can be obtained at the hotel.

On Monday Mr. G. R. Stevens (of Edenhall) and family went out for a picnic leaving none but Chinamen in the house. On returning about nine o'clock in the evening they found that about \$800 worth of jewellery had been taken from a cupboard, and that the house coolie, who had only been in Mr. Stevens' employ for three weeks, had decamped. A somewhat similar robbery took place at Edenhall a few months ago. On Mr. Stevens discovering his loss on Monday and questioning the boys about it they admitted that the house coolie had spoken to them during the day about the previous robbery and said that the coolies who took the jewellery on that occasion would not have been caught had they gone far enough away instead of remaining in the city. The robbery was not reported to the police until Tuesday morning, by which time the house coolie, in view of his previously expressed opinion, would in all probability be far away.

On Tuesday afternoon Mr. G. J. W. King offered several lots of Crown land for public auction. Kowloon Inland Lot No. 422, situated at Mongkoktau, containing 5,500 square feet, with an annual rent of \$76, was exposed at the upset price of \$1,380. The lot was purchased by Mr. M. J. D. Stephens for \$3,320. Kowloon Inland Lots Nos. 424, 899, and 900, each containing 5,500 square feet, were each offered at the upset price of \$1,380. The annual rent of each lot is placed at \$76. The lots were bought by Mr. Yeung Ching Po, ginger manufacturer, at \$2,20, \$2,240, and \$1,700 respectively. Rural Building Lot No. 98, situated at Mount Gongh, containing 19,000 square feet, with an annual rent of \$84, was exposed at the upset price of \$1,140. Mr. Turner, of Messrs. Palmer and Turner, purchased the lot for \$1,160. Rural Building Lot No. 99, in the same locality, was sold to Mr. M. W. Slade for \$1,340. The lot contains 21,880 square feet, has an annual rent of \$100, and the upset price was fixed at 1,320.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1899-1900	1898-99
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Hankow and Shanghai	9,514,730	19,608,332
Amoy	98,440	110,724
Fouchow	8,405,078	7,210,564
Canton	2,057,513	1,76,568
	20,070,061	19,805,966

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai	1,222,849	1,152,677
Amoy	2,577,809	3,506,304
Foochow	909,916	647,168
	4,710,604	5,580,047

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Shanghai and Hankow	8,045,356	8,894,515
	16,873,221	20,791,800

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Yokohama	9,519,179	12,351,018
Kobe	7,154,042	8,440,783
	16,673,221	20,791,800

SILK.

SHANGHAI, 5th Aug.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons' Circular).—The Home markets are firmer, Blue Elephants are still 12/16 in London, and Gold Killings are quoted at Fcs. 81.00 in Lyons. Raw Silk.—A little more doing, but settlements are still on a very small scale, consisting of some 10 bales Tsattees and 160 coarse silks. Yellow Silk.—Fully 350 bales have been settled, common qualities are a little easier. Arrivals as per Customs Returns, July 29th to August 4th, are: 1,650 bales White, 881 bales Yellow and 246 bales Wild Silks. Re-reels and Hand Filatures.—Nothing doing. Steam Filatures.—A steady business at unchanged rates, about 300 bales have been settled. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 785 bales to America, 630 bales to the Continent, and 21 bales to London. Wild Silk.—Some common Tussah Raws have been done. Waste Silk.—Market firm with advancing prices, 300 piculs of Curries No. 1 have been bought at Tls. 65.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1899-1900	1898-99
bales.	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	27,258	15,252
Canton	5,321	6,765
Yokohama	2	687
	32,581	17,704

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
bales.	bales.	bales.
Shanghai	1,861	870
Canton	1,785	1,764
Yokohama	105	246
	3,751	3,700

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 11th August.—The upward tendency continues. Quotation for Formosa are \$68.00 to \$73.00, sales 800 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 11th August.—The market continues active and prices are still advancing. Quotations are:

Shekloong, No. 1, White	\$8.30	\$8.35
do., " 2, White	7.77 to	7.80
Shekloong, No. 1, Brown	5.70 to	5.75
do., " 2, Brown	5.50 to	5.77
Swatow, No. 1, White	8.08 to	8.12
do., " 2, White	7.68 to	7.77
Swatow, No. 1, Brown	5.56 to	5.58
do., " 2, Brown	5.41 to	5.50
Fochow Sugar Candy	12.00 to	12.30
Shekloong	11.00 to	11.14

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per American Barque *Gerard C. Tobey*, sailed on the 29th July. For New York:—14,808 rolls matting, 3,750 bales & boxes *cassia lignea*, 295 bales *rattancore*, 247 bales canes, 20 boxes ginger, 162 cases *Chinaware*, 15 casks soy, 140 cases heather brushes, 95 packages chairs, 70 cases blackwoodware, 50 casks ginger, and 7 packages private effects.

Per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, sailed on the 5th instant. For Marseilles.—1 case silk and 225 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—655 bales raw silk. For Milan:—60 bales raw silk. For St. Chamond:—10 bales raw silk. For London:—210 bales raw silk, 5 cases silks and 7 cases private effects.

Per P. & O. steamer *Socotra*, sailed on the 5th August. For Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For London:—3 cases cigars, and 750 bales hemp from Maula, 3,451 bales hemp Hongkong 7 Pkgs Private effects, 326 boxes tea \$184 lbs. Congon, 15,690 boxes tea 329,490 lbs. So. Capor 64 boxes tea 1,280 lbs. So. Or. Pekoe 15 m/cases tea, 300 bales waste silk, 100 bales bamboo ware, 100 bales feathers, 500 Pkgs firecrackers, 60 bales canes 49 cases blackwoodware, 160 cases Chinaware, 6 cases camphorwood trunk, 1 case strawgoods, 1 case silverware & silk; 5 cases feathers, 150 rolls mats & matting, 200 rolls matting, and 6 cases sundries. For Marseilles:—2 cases essence ilang ilang; 100 bales waste silk, and 11 cases sundries.

OPIUM.

Hongkong, 11th Aug.—Bengal.—At the commencement of the week under review the market relapsed into a weak state and rates experienced a decline, but at the close there has been a small amount of business done. Closing quotations are: New Patna \$837 $\frac{1}{4}$, New Benares \$830, and Old Patna \$880.

MALWA.—There has been a good demand for this drug during the past week, and a fair amount of business has been done. Latest rates are:—

Old (2 yrs.) \$770 with allce of 0 to 3 catties
" " 790 " " 0 to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
" 810 " " 1 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
" 840 " " 0 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ "

Persian.—Rates have declined owing to the small demand. Closing quotations are:—Oily \$650, Paper-tied \$650 to \$760, according to quality.

To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

	NEW PATNA		OLD PATNA		NEW BENARES		MALWA	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
Aug. 5	\$837 $\frac{1}{4}$	818	\$83	\$8	\$8	\$8	830	830
Aug. 6	842 $\frac{1}{4}$	880	837 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—	830	830
Aug. 7	842 $\frac{1}{4}$	880	837 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—	830	830
Aug. 8	840	880	835	—	—	—	830	830
Aug. 9	840	880	835	—	—	—	830	830
Aug. 10	837 $\frac{1}{4}$	880	832 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—	830	830
Aug. 11	835	880	830	—	—	—	830	830
	837 $\frac{1}{4}$	880	830	—	—	—	830	830

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
Aug. 5	\$837 $\frac{1}{4}$	818	\$83	\$8	\$8	\$8
Aug. 6	842 $\frac{1}{4}$	880	837 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—
Aug. 7	842 $\frac{1}{4}$	880	837 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—
Aug. 8	840	880	835	—	—	—
Aug. 9	840	880	835	—	—	—
Aug. 10	837 $\frac{1}{4}$	880	832 $\frac{1}{4}$	—	—	—
Aug. 11	835	880	830	—	—	—

RICE.

Hongkong, 11th August.—Prices are rather firm; only small supplies having come forward of late. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$2.38 to 2.41
" Round, good quality	2.79 to 2.82
" Long	3.07 to 3.12
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2	2.76 to 2.78
" Garden, No. 1	3.25 to 3.28
" White	3.71 to 3.76
" Fine Cargo	3.93 to 3.95

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Hongkong, 11th August.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

TACK AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn:—1,400 bales No. 10 at \$66 to \$75, 700 bales No. 12 at \$88 to \$95, 100 bales No. 16 at \$80, 800 bales No. 20 at \$76 to \$87.25. *White Shirtings*.—500 pieces Flower Chop at \$5.00, 500 pieces S Q at

\$4.22 $\frac{1}{4}$, 500 pieces X 6 at \$8.90, 500 pieces X 7 \$4.15, 500 pieces X 8 at \$4.45, 500 pieces X 9 at \$4.75, 500 pieces S Q at \$4.45, 500 pieces S Q at \$4.22 $\frac{1}{4}$, 250 pieces Flower Chop at \$5.00, 500 pieces S Q at \$4.45. *Grey Shirtings*:—1,500 pieces 10 lbs. 2 Slags at \$3.97 $\frac{1}{4}$, 1,500 pieces 8 lbs. Blue Joss at \$3.70, 1,500 pieces 10 lbs. Blue 5 Men at \$3.97 $\frac{1}{4}$. *T. Cloths*.—1,500 pieces 8 lbs. X M at \$2.87 $\frac{1}{4}$, 600 pieces 8 lbs. X M at \$2.37 $\frac{1}{4}$, 3,750 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Gold Dragon at \$2.36, 1,500 pieces 7 lbs. Mex. Silver Dragon at \$2.22. *Bengal Cotton*.—100 bales at \$18, 57 bales at \$17.75.

METALS.—*Quicksilver*.—200 flasks at \$150 to arrive. *Iron*.—100 piculs square round, and flat bars at \$5.40, 1,100 piculs Wire Nails at \$6.50 to arrive.

COTTON YARN.

	per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20s.	58.00 to 91.00
English—Nos. 16 to 24.	101.00 to 108.00
" 22 to 24.	106.00 to 110.00
" 28 to 32.	114.00 to 120.00
" 38 to 42.	125.00 to 131.00

COTTON PIECE GOODS.

	per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	1.70 to 1.80
7 lbs.	1.90 to 2.00
8.4 lbs.	2.35 to 3.10
9 to 10 lbs.	3.25 to 4.00
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.30 to 2.50
53 to 60 "	2.70 to 3.35
64 to 66 "	3.50 to 4.35
Fine	4.30 to 7.05
Book-folds	3.75 to 5.65
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.66 to 1.35
T-Cloths—6 lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	1.52 to 1.72
7 lbs. (32 ")	1.85 to 2.10
6 lbs. (32 "), Mex.	1.62 to 1.82
7 lbs. (32 ")	2.10 to 2.75
8 to 8.4 oz. (36 in.)	2.35 to 3.20
Drills, English—40 yds., 14 to 16 lbs.	3.65 to 6.35

FANCY COTTONS.

	per yard
Damasks	0.12 to 0.14
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08 —
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.20 to 0.40
Velveteens—18 in.	0.18 to 0.19
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.25 to 1.25

WOOLLENS.

	per yard
Spanish Stripes—Sundry chaps.	0.62 $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1.52 $\frac{1}{4}$
German	— to —
Habit, Med., and Broad Cloths	1.20 to 2.25
Long Ells—Scarlet	6.10 to 9.50
Assorted	6.20 to 9.60
Camlets—Assorted	11.50 to 31.00
Lastings—30 yds., 31 inches, Assorted	8.00 to 20.00
Orleans—Plain	7.50 to 8.50
Blankets—8 to 12 lbs. (pair)	4.50 to 14.00

METALS.

	per picul
Iron—Nail Rod	5.25 to —
Square, Flat, Round, Bar	5.50 to —
Swedish Iron	6.50 to —
Small Round Rod	5.60 to —
Hoop $\frac{1}{2}$ to 11/2 in.	6.25 to —
Wire 1/25	6.25 to —
Old Wire Rope	

ther sales at \$116, rose, with sales, by easy stages to \$126, at which the stock closes steady to strong. West Points have improved to \$374 after sales at \$36, \$364, and \$37. Humphreys continue dull with sellers and no buyers or sales at quotation. Kowloon Lands remain quiet with no sales and sellers.

COTTON MILLS.—The market continues dull and neglected with no business to report. Hongkong's are obtainable at \$75; other quotations are taken from the latest Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have improved to \$29 $\frac{1}{2}$ with buyers. Watsons have changed hands at quotation. Electrics after fair sales at \$13, \$14, and \$14 $\frac{1}{2}$ have advanced to \$15. This Company advertises a new issue of capital. Star Ferries have found buyers at \$16 $\frac{1}{2}$. Ices at \$128, and China Providents at \$9.75, \$9.85, and \$10.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		[\$500, sellers]
Hongkong & N'hai...	\$125	372 p. ct. prem., =
China & Japan, ordy.	\$4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5s.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$24, buyers
Foun. Shares...	£8	\$24, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$2, buyers
China Prov. L. & M...	\$10	\$10, buyers
China Sugar	\$100	\$168, sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 65
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 72
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 7.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 3 0
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 57 4
Hongkong	\$100	\$75, sellers
Dairy Farm.....	\$6	\$6.25.
Fenwick & Co., Geo....	\$25	\$43, sellers
Green Island Cement...	\$0	\$29 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$25.
Hongkong & C. Gas ...	£10	\$127, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$15
H. H. L. Tramways	\$00	\$145.
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$126, buyers
Hongkong Ice.....	\$25	\$130, buyers
H. & K. Wharf & G...	\$50	\$98, buyers
Hongkong Rope.....	\$50	\$185, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	49 p. ct. p em.—
Insurance—		[\$7 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, buyers]
Canton	\$50	\$140.
China Fire	\$20	\$88 $\frac{1}{2}$, sales
China Traders'	\$25	\$62, sales
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$310, buyers
North-China	£25	Tls. 195
Straits	\$20	\$61, sales & bys.
Union	\$50	\$240, buyers
Yan-tsze	\$60	\$115, buyers
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$106, sellers
Humphreys Estate...	\$10	\$11, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$29 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$37 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$55, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$230,
Gt. Estn. & C'donin...	\$3	\$3.30.
Do. Preference...	\$1	\$80, sellers
Jelebu	\$5	\$14, buyers
Queen's Mines Ltd...	25c.	50 cents, sellers
Oliver's Mines, A...	\$5	\$3.
Do. B...	\$4	\$61, sellers
Punjom	\$6	\$12.25, sellers
Do. Preference...	\$1	2.
Raiis	5s. 10d.	\$61, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6	\$16, buyers
Steamship Cos.—		
China and Manila	—\$50	\$91, sales
China Mutual Pref...	£10	£9, 13s., buyers
China Ordinary	£10	£6, 0s., buyers
Do.	£5	£3, 0s., buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$19, sellers
H. Canton and M...	\$15	\$32, buyer
Indo-China S. N. ...	£10	£66, buyers
Star Ferry	\$7 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$16 $\frac{1}{2}$, sellers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Do.	\$3	\$3, sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$21, buyers
Do.	\$10	\$10, nominal
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37 $\frac{1}{2}$	\$41, buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	£17.

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 7th August.—(From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—Business has been fairly brisk, and has been characterised by a rise of 24 per cent in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Local business was done at

350 per cent premium for cash and 355 per cent for 30th September. There was a very strong demand in Hongkong, and shares were sold to the Colony at 360, 365 and 367 per cent premium, with exchange 72 $\frac{1}{2}$. The closing price is equal to 371 $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent premium, with exchange 73. Marine Insurance—Unions were placed at \$287 $\frac{1}{2}$. North-Chinas were sold at Tls. 195, and more are wanted. Yung-tzes are wanted at \$115. Fire Insurance.—No change to report. Shiping.—Indo-China Steam Navigation shares were placed at Tls. 47 $\frac{1}{2}$ cash, and Tls. 48 for the 30th September. Sugars—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares were placed at Tls. 61. China Sugar Refining shares were sold at \$172. Luzon Sugar Refining shares are weak, with sellers at \$55. Mining.—Raub Australian Gold Mining shares were placed at \$63 $\frac{1}{2}$ last week. Docks, Wharves & Godowns.—Boyd & Co. shares were placed at Tls. 190, S. C. Farnham & Co. shares at Tls. 260 and Tls. 210, and Shanghai Dock shares Preference at Tls. 118, and Ordinary at Tls. 100. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf shares were sold at Tls. 217, Tls. 210, Tls. 212 and Tls. 213 for cash, Tls. 213 for the 31st current, and Tls. 225 for December. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 83. There are now buyers at Tls. 82. Industrial.—Shanghai Gas shares are wanted at Tls. 195. Two Mill shares were sold at Tls. 63, and a few more are offering. Internationals are wanted. Shanghai Ice shares were placed at Tls. 36. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Shanghai Cargo Boat shares were sold at Tls. 170 ex div. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai waterworks shares changed hands at Tls. 262. Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were sold at Tls. 55. Shanghai-Langkat Tobacco shares have been done at steadily advancing rates, from Tls. 170 to Tls. 180 cash, Tls. 195 for November and Tls. 210 for December. Hall and Holtz shares were placed at \$36. Loans.—In Debentures business was one:—Shanghai Municipal 6 per cent. of 1894 at Tls. 101, and Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf 6 per cent. Tls. 101, plus the accrued interest as usual. Chinese Imperial E Loan Bonds were placed at Tls. 250, plus the accrued interest.

Quotations are:—

BANKS.

Hongkong and Shanghai.—\$576.87.
Bank of China and Japan, Ld.—£1.0.

Do. ordinary.—£5.50.

National Bank of China, Ld.—\$24.00.

COTTON MILLS,

Ewo Cotton Spinning & W. Co., Ld.—Tls. 65.00.
Hongkong Cotton S. W. & D. Co.—\$80.00.
International Cotton Man. Co., Ld.—Tls. 70.00.
Laou-kung-mow Cotton Co., Ld.—Tls. 75.00.
Soy Chee Cotton Spinning Co., Ld.—Tls. 350.00.

DOCKS, WHARVES, &c.

Boyd & Co., Ld., Founders.—Nominal.
Boyd & Co., Limited.—Tls. 190.00.
Hongkong & Kowloon Wharf Company.—\$98.
Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ld.—\$656.25.
S. C. Farnham & Co.—Tls. 210.00.
Shanghai Engineering S. & D. Co.—Tls. 180.00.
Shanghai & Hongkew Wharf Co.—Tls. 213.00.

INSURANCES.

Canton Insurance Office, Ld.—\$140.00.
China Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—\$89.00.
China Traders' Insurance Co., Ld.—\$62.00.
Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ld.—\$310.60.
North China Insurance Co., Ld.—Tls. 195.00.
Straits Insurance Co., Ld.—\$6.50.
Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ld.—\$237.1
Yangtsze Insurance Assocn., Ld.—\$115.00.

LANDS.

Hongkong Land Invest. & A. Co., Ld.—\$105.
Humphreys Estate & Finance Co., Ld.—\$11.50.
Shanghai Land Invest. Co. (fully pd.)—Tls. 83.00.

MINING,

Punjor Mining Co., Ld.—\$12.50.
Punjor Mining Co., Ld. pref. shares.—\$2.00.
Raub Australian Gold Mining Co., Ld.—\$63.50.
Sheridan Consolidated Co.—Tls. 4.00.

SHIPPING,

China Mutual preference.—Tls. 72.0.
Do. ordinary, £5 paid.—Tls. 30.0.
Co-operative Large Boat Co.—Tls. 161.50.
Douglas Steamship Co., Ld.—\$57.00
Hongkong, Canton and Macao.—\$31.00.
Indo-China Steam N. Co., Ld.—Tls. 47.50.
Shanghai Cargo Boat Co.—Tls. 170.0.
Shanghai Tugboat Co., Ld.—Tls. 225.00.
Taku Tug & Lighter Co., Ld.—T. Tls. 75.00.

SUGAR,

China Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$172.00.
Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ld.—\$55.00.
Perak Sugar Cultivation Co., Ld.—Tls. 61.00.

MISCELLANEOUS.

American Cigarette Co.—Tls. 57.00.

Central Stores, Ld.—\$11.00.

China Flour Mills Co.—Tls. 30.00.

Hall & Holtz, Ld.—\$36.00.

Llewellyn & Co., J., Limited.—\$55.00.

Major Brothers, Limited.—Tls. 40.0.

Shanghai Feather Cleaning Co.—Tls. 400.00.

Shanghai Gas Co.—\$195.00.

Shanghai Horse Bazaar Co., Ld.—Tls. 75.00.

Shanghai Ice, Cold Storage, & Refrigeration Co., Ld., Tls. 36.00.

Shanghai Langkat Tobacco Co., Ld.—Tls. 180.

Shanghai Rice Mills Co.—Tls. 25.00.

Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco Co.—Tls. 65.00.

Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ld.—Tls. 26.00.

Watson Co., A. S., Limited.—\$18.00.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 7th August.

ON LONDON.—

Telegraphic Transfer 1/11.

Bank Bills, on demand 1/11.

Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight 1/11.

Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 1/11.

Credits, at 4 months' sight 2/0.

Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight 2/0.

ON PARIS.—

Bank Bills, on demand 2.49.

Credits, at 4 months' sight 2.53.

ON GERMANY.—

On demand 2.02.

ON NEW YORK.—

Bank Bills, on demand 48.

Credits, 60 days' sight 49.

ON BOMBAY.—

Telegraphic Transfer 147.

Bank, on demand 148.

ON CALCUTTA.—

Telegraphic Transfer 147.

Bank, on demand 148.

ON SHANGHAI.—

Bank, at sight 72.

Private, 30 days' sight 73.

ON YOKOHAMA.—

On demand 4 % pm.

ON MANILA.—

On demand 2 1/2 pm.

ON SINGAPORE:—

On demand 14 % pm.

SOVEREIGNS. Bank's Buying Rate... 10.06.

1² gold cent per lb. tea, 6 cents per lb. silk, \$10 per ton strawbraid. New York via Suez, 27s. 6d. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 27s. 6d. for tea, all net. Boston via Suez, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 40s. for tea, all net. Philadelphia via Suez, 35s. general cargo, 10s. extra for Turmeric, 10s. for tea, all net. Coast rates.—Moji to Shanghai \$1.75 per ton coal; Nagasaki to Shanghai \$1.75 per ton coal; Newchwang to Kobe 16 sen; to Nagasaki 16 sen; to Swatow 25 cents; to Amoy 25 cent; to Whampoa 27 cents; to Canton 27 cents; Wu-hu and Chinkiang to Canton nothing doing; to Amoy nothing doing; to Sw tow nothing doing.

VESSELS ON THE BERTH.

For LONDON.—*Autenor* (str.), *Parramatta* (str.), *Manila* (str.), *Tosa Maru* (str.), *Bombay* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.).
For BREMEN.—*Prinz Heinrich* (str.), *Hatachi Maru* (str.).
For MARSEILLES.—*Yarra* (str.), *Chingwo* (str.), *Tosa Maru* (str.), *Hitachi Maru* (str.).
For HAVRE AND HAMBURG.—*Nurnberg* (str.), *Aleia* (str.), *Wittenberg* (str.), *Savoia* (str.).
For SAN FRANCISCO.—*City of Rio de Janeiro* (str.), *America Maru* (str.), *Thyra*, *Sevilia* (str.), *Coptic* (str.).
For VANCOUVER.—*Empress of India* (str.).
For VICTORIA, B.C., VIA SHANGHAI.—*Glenogle* (str.).
For PORTLAND, O.—*Lennox* (str.).
For NEW YORK.—*Pisa* (str.), *Ghazee* (str.), *Governor Robie*, *Josephus*, *St. James*, *Indralema* (str.), *Challenger*.
For AUSTRALIA.—*Changsha* (str.), *Kasuga Maru* (str.), *Gulhrie* (str.).
For VICTORIA AND SEATTLE.—*Idzumi Maru* (str.).
For GENOA VIA BOMBAY.—*Singapore* (str.).
For TRIESTE AND STRAIT, ETC.—*Moravia* (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

August—ARRIVALS.

5. Tritos, German str., from Saigon.
5. Fushun, Chinese str., from Canton.
5. Hupeh, British str., from Singapore.
5. Kelat, British ship, from New York.
6. City of Rio de Janeiro, Amer. str., from San Francisco.
6. Kagogshima Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.
6. Loyal, German str., from Hongay.
6. Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
7. Australian, British str., from Sydney.
7. Hating, French str., from Pakhoi.
7. Carlisle City, British str., from Moji.
7. Zafiro, Amer. supply ship, from Manila.
7. Ontang, British str., from Sandakan.
8. Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
8. Glacier, Amer. supply ship, from Manila.
8. Pyrrhus, British str., from Liverpool.
8. Tientsin, British str., from Bangkok.
8. Taisang, British str., from Canton.
8. Tamsui, British str., from Canton.
8. Taksang, British str., from Sourabaya.
9. Dardanus, British str., from Shanghai.
9. Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
9. Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
9. Haitan, British str., from Coast Ports.
9. Hermes, Norwegian str., from Chefoo.
9. Keongwai, British str., from Bangkok.
9. Pisa, German str., from Singapore.
9. Kiangnan, Chinese str., from Canton.
9. Changsha, British str., from Shanghai.
10. Siam, British str., from Bangkok.
10. Sullberg, German str., from Chefoo.
10. Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
10. Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
10. Benledi, British str., from Moji.
10. Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
10. Prometheus, British str., from Liverpool.
10. Clara, German str., from Haiphong.
10. Loyal, German str., from Canton.
10. Lenox, British str., from Portland.
10. C. H. Kian, British str., from Singapore.
11. Morevia, Austrian str., from Kobe.
11. Canton, British str., from London.
11. Sungkhang, British str., from Manila.
11. Yarra, French str., from Shanghai.
11. Glenesk, British str., from London.
11. Trieste, Austrian str., from Trieste.
11. Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., from Amoy.
11. Triumph, German str., from Pakhoi.
11. Whampoa, British str., from Swatow.
11. Formosa, British str., from Tamsui.
11. Saxon, German str., from Hamburg.

August—DEPARTURES.

5. Coromandel, British str., for Europe, &c.
5. Chusan, British str., for Shanghai.
5. Atapa, British str., for Batavia.
5. Hue, French str., for Haiphong.
5. Bygdo, Norwegian str., for Chefoo.
5. Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
5. Germania, German str., for Hongay.
5. Loongsang, British str., for Swatow.
5. Nanchang, British str., for Swatow.
5. D. Baldino, Italian str., for Bombay.
5. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
5. Robilla, British str., for Yokohama.
6. Hailan, French str., for Manila.
6. Breid, Norwegian str., for Sadong.
6. Maidzuru Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
6. Wongkoi, British str., for Swatow.
6. Nauryang, German str., for Swatow.
6. Else, German str., for Chefoo.
6. Fushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
6. Sishan, British str., for Swatow.
6. Beuvorlich, British str., for Bassein.
6. Nippon Maru, Jap. str., for San Francisco.
6. Hinsang, British str., for Sourabaya.
8. Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
8. Loyal, German str., for Canton.
8. Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
8. Duphne, German str., for Vladivostock.
8. Silesia, German str., for Hamburg.
8. Kagogshima Maru, Jap. str., for Bombay.
8. Phra Nang, British str., for Bangkok.
9. Quarta, German str., for Saigon.
9. Ivy, American ship, for Royal Road.
9. Empress of China, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
9. Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
9. Taisang, British str., for Swatow.
9. Dardanus, British str., for London.
10. Tamsui, British str., for Shanghai.
10. Pyrrhus, British str., for Shanghai.
10. Chwnshan, British str., for Swatow.
10. E. Rickmers, German str., for Saigon.
10. Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
10. Hating, French str., for Hoihow.
10. Kiangnan, Chinese str., for Hankow.
10. Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
10. Pisa, German str., for Shanghai.
10. Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
10. Kumsang, British str., for Calcutta.
10. Sullberg, German str., for Canton.
11. Tritos, German str., for Saigon.
11. Petrarch, German str., for Saigon.
11. Loyal, German str., for Hongay.
11. Glenogle, British str., for Tacoma.
11. Hermes, Norwegian str., for Canton.
11. Waterwitch, British str., for Manila.
11. Haitan, British str., for Coast Ports.
11. Prometheus, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per Coromandel, from Shanghai, for London, Messrs. J. R. Wain, W. Newill, J. Moon, P. Allan, C. Arnison, G. Harper, A. Hubbard, J. Heads, T. Hill, G. Bradburn, T. Henly, G. Frood, W. Cummings, W. M. Harper, and W. H. Jamison, for Marseilles; Mr. T. W. Aldes; for Hongkong. Messrs. Liva, E. T. Slight, Mavette, Brerke, and R. Finch.

Per City of Rio de Janeiro, from San Francisco, &c., Capt. J. McGowan, U.S.N., Lieut. C. H. Mathews, U.S.N., Mrs. E. H. Liscum, Mrs. A. C. Moyer, Mrs. A. Wallace and son, Mrs. B. Mehring, Mr. B. A. Ogden and 2 sons, Messrs. M. Stempel, J. G. Aburto, C. Soto, C. G. Scott, Rev. F. W. McClintock, Mrs. McClintock and child, Messrs. J. Kato, H. Bruhn, Chas. S. Coy, R. H. Wright, A. S. Goodwin, C. B. Gould, J. H. Love, N. McGregor, Miss V. C. Ranna, Mrs. A. D. Cunier, and Miss Janet Waldorf.

Per Australian, for Hongkong, from Australian Ports, Misses Halley (2), Mrs. French, Mrs. W. Wilson and 2 children, Messrs. J. L. Castner, W. Watson, E. Baker, E. Monro, J. Kromar, Geo. Enlicknap, T. Davis, C. Hardy, F. C. Adie, W. Wilson, H. B. Hasketh, Chun Yut, O. Chun Yut, Dr. Seale, Dr. F. A. Hardy and Dr. Sue Kee; from Manila, Mrs. Evenburg and child, Major L. H. Rucker, Captain Law, Lieut. Mellinger, Messrs. Evenburg, Martin, H. B. Larzeleare, B. Hernandez, Carroll, N. Z. Baswick, F. M. Brooks, T. H. Harris, R. H. Tuckwell, G. Neiderlein, L. A. Danziger, Hildreth, H. Hammond, W. Hammond, W. Young, B. C. Dodd, and T. Howard.

Per Carlisle City, from Moji, Mr. Morgan, and Dr. Edelman.

Per Yuensang, from Manila, Messrs. Simpson, M. Villanueva, T. Betines, and A. Sanchez, Mrs. A. Martin, Miss N. Alekxeona, Messrs. G. Reichwein, U. Free, L. Prege, A. Hart, L. Gimenez, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Johns, Messrs. V. Pagua, W. Otaki, T. Robertson, Chas. Doolie, V. Villegas, S. Power, E. Delorne and 241 Chinese.

Per Haitan, from Coast Ports, Miss Blundon, Messrs. Milli, Kwai, and Sun.

Per Coptic, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Thos. Longworth and 2 children, Dr. M. W. Franklin, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Dahl, Mr. Louis Bettens, Mr. J. F. Noble, Mrs. Belle Kelley, and infant, Mr. F. H. Morris, Inspector Scott and 184 Chinese.

DEPARTED.

Per Chusan, for Shanghai, from Hongkong, Messrs. J. Y. Mayston, R. N. J. Moosa, and I. Kuhn; from London, Messrs. H. Dorrell and H. Dunseate.

Per Robilla, for Yokohama, from London, Mrs. Talbot and 2 children, and Miss Scott; from Singapore, Lieut. A. W. H. Lee; for Nagasaki, from Hongkong, Mr. Bowen, Miss Suma, and Mr. Osuga Hayashi.

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